

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING
HELD 18TH JUNE 2020**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****MRS P. DOUST****J. ANSELL****MISS G. ADDISON****L. COWLEY****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****C. ROGERS****A. GOODMAN****A. GHADIALI****R. PAIN****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****T. LYNN****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:

- (a) Minutes of full council meeting held 19th March 2020 were agreed ready for signature by the Chairman.
- (b) Minute notes of delegated decisions and responses 27th April and 22nd May 2020 were agreed ready for signature by the Chairman.
- (c) Planning Committee meeting none held as dealt with by delegated authority as above.

3. OPEN FORUM

No members of the public had requested to be able to speak to any matter.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil referred to Covid grants and advised that should anyone have fallen through the net due to circumstances to let him know so he could consider discretionary grants. Public toilets were now open and this was an illustration of how vitally important toilets were to this area and its visitors. District had been more effective locally than County but as they obtained their finance from car parking and planning fees, together with refuse there were as a result under a lot of financial pressure. District had continued with workshops and had a joint meeting in scrutiny to be followed by Executive and full council as there would be about a £5million deficit. Cllr Brazil concern was that in order to fill a blackhole District might use reserves which would be directed to business and enterprise so its use would go into a black hole whilst needed for Covid and they might start to sell vital community assets to assist. He felt they must find other ways to do this. The Chairman enquired about funding from central Government. He was advised that despite the Minister stating initially they would pay anything the payback was about a fifth of expenditure.

Local Government never fared well and was seen as an easy way to get money. Councils might then put up council tax by 10 – 15% and Cllr Brazil stated this was unfair and Government should put up income tax and national insurance. All statements at present were hypothetical. It would be an interesting District meeting to be held on 3rd September which Cllr Brazil urged all to attend to observe the routes to be taken to get out. South Hams District was a lot better than many others, which was why it should not sell its assets in the present climate. They should get rid of reserves and instead of using assets as Government would then need to step up and bail them out.

District had delivered well on grants, kept the community refuse collection going well although there had been a few hiccups when car parks reopened at beaches with toilets and bins and antisocial behaviour in places such as Stretegate. County was less affected as they were not dealing with day to day issues. County now had funding to assist opening shops so this had been directed to towns such as Kingsbridge, Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Totnes, and at Exeter for cycle routes. However there was nothing in rural areas with nothing further coming down. Recycling centres were opened but were not allowed to take vans so he was asking to lift this restriction, it was due to a capacity issue, but he believe they now needed to get going.

Green Park Way was not going to the July Development Management meeting but may possibly go to August but Cllr Brazil did not like big decisions on such a large scale being taken in August. The reason was due to administration anomalies than conspiracy so he felt they should aim for September. Virtual meetings he felt were not good so he hoped it would be better and all could attend by then.

Cllr Pain enquired what the cleaning regime was for public toilets. The response twice a day and sometimes three although currently in some cases they had run out of soap. It was not ideal but as everyone was emerging from lockdown all must learn and it was the responsibility of individuals as well. If people needed to self-shield or isolate then the message must be do not go into public toilets. No one could make them 100% safe as neither was a supermarket. Initially it was a collective message to help the NHS now it was more directed to the individual on what they did and how they behaved.

Cllr Rogers raised the problem at Dunstan Cross with regard to plastic fires and more rubbish, along with barbeques and parties being held in that location. How was enforcement dealing with this? Cllr Brazil advised that David Bate the enforcement planning officer was diabetic so self-isolating but Chris Booty had acknowledged this and discussed it with him. Enough was enough and District Enforcement must get stronger. Unfortunately the owners were not present, a homeless person was using the area and it was all very unsatisfactory.

4. CO OPTION

An application for co-option was received and it was AGREED to co-opt Douglas Colliver and that the Declarations of Acceptance of Office and forms for completion of the Register of Interests would be provided by email.

5. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 1480/20/HHO Householder application for proposed extension and alterations to two storey dwelling (resubmission of 0237/20/HHO) The Warren, Beesands – Response 20th July – No comment but due consideration should be given by the planning officer to

potential overlooking concerns and ensure that the height did not exceed its two storey neighbours.

- 1516/20/HHO Householder application for extension to replace dining conservatory
Householder application for extension to replace dining conservatory 6 Pendeen Park, Chillington – 10th July – No comment.

6. LICENSING APPLICATION

The application for Sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises, Monday to Sunday from 11am to 10.30pm, at Britannia@theBeach, The Seafront, Beesands was considered with a response by 24th June. No objection but the ability to take a chosen affordable alcohol was felt a local loss for the community that supported with their usage.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The following documents were received and AGREED as follows;

- the annual internal audit report – Received and noted.
- and action any recommendations or findings therein before approving the Annual Governance Statement – None received.

8. ACCOUNTS AUDIT STATEMENT

It was AGREED;

- that the Accounting Statements 2019/20 duly completed and presented to be wet signed and dated by the Responsible Financial Officer were approved
- to approve the Accounting Statements and for the Chairman to wet sign and date such as soon as possible after the meeting.

9. PARISH COVID DISCUSSIONS TO INCLUDE REOPENING OF BUSINESSES

In acknowledgement of the Government lifting of restrictions for the opening of businesses across the parish the concerns and/or preparations that might be required to assist were AGREED as follows:

It was advised that a local business had asked whether they could use an area for tables and chairs but the ownership, licensing and planning requirements had created many hurdles. This was a rare case as District had tried to provide for such but the location did not allow it.

The meeting noted that the Cricket Inn had reopened and spread its benches along the front promenade car parking area. The owner had advised they had permission to have benches along that stretch of their pub by a £250 temporary licence. The meeting expressed concern that the car parking along this section was a sensitive issue but had not received any comments.

All councillors were advised to put a sympathetic ear out for businesses that might have missed out on grant assistance and any request would be researched to encourage business reopening.

Cllr Ansell left the Zoom meeting.

10. STOKENHAM TO TORCROSS PERMISSIVE PATH

The state and route of the path was such that it would require expenditure to bring it back into use. An owner on the wooded section also wished to move the gateway and perhaps remove the need for a gate and just have an opening. Further information from Mark Brooking had been anticipated to provide for access out of his field along the road to Stokenham. It was AGREED that a contribution to works would be provided and this would be considered as soon as a plan was received.

Cllr Rogers advised at this point that in his capacity as a contractor for Devon County Footpaths he had obtained a galvanised self-closing gate which would be installed at the entrance to the graveyard of Stokenham Church along footpath 15a.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CLERK

- Cllr Rogers noted that County were providing £3000 to improve the byway from Dunstone to Kernborough due to pothole/ditches and the works would be completed in the next couple of weeks.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Andy Chason from Chillington had emailed to note that the private rubbish bins on the pavement by Fairfield that he had raised, when he attended full council earlier, had been dealt along with the leaking tap. He now wished to request a further public bin be installed at the corner of Fairfield for dog walkers and visitors to deposit rubbish in. Again he requested a new broom to be provided as he advised he kept both bus shelters swept. It was felt that rubbish was rare and a bin this area was not needed.
- It had been advised that the Ca'en memorial at Torcross had been vandalised with the chain being cut away with bolt cutters and the mosaic kicked off. This had been raised with District but no course of action was known as yet. Dist Cllr Brazil felt that as no one at District had taken responsibility this repair might fall to parish council although it was noted that this was a District project that District representatives had attended Normandy for the opening of. The clerk raised the question of knowledge of who did the mosaic and materials.
- Parish Council received an email from the Government Digital Service (GDS) who are responsible for issuing .gov.uk domain names. Working with the Cabinet Office Government Security Group (GSG), the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Digital Office Scotland they were to help public sector organisations improve domain names security. Stokenham had been advised that their domain name was unsecured and Cllr Spence had made contact with the domain registration provider and asked for this change to be implemented.
- The reintroduction of public bus services had been communicated and it had been advised that the consultation on enhanced bus services grant had been used elsewhere due to Covid measures.
- Mortis Sport and Play had to await the drainage contractor reinstating workers and it had been advised that the works in Chillington Play Field would commence 6th July. Devon Air Ambulance night landing in Chillington had to be delayed opening as the operators were not able to distance within the aircraft. With changes they had now advised that they were reinstating all night landing stations and Chillington would be included until it was advised that works had definitely commenced.
- Play Inspection had been asked not to attend to inspect the Chillington or Stokenham Play Equipment for now as they were out of service. However it was noted that signs advising not to use the equipment during the Covid lockdown had been removed and parents were allowing children on. Advised once the play equipment was reopening, following a Government directive, maintenance would be required and could well cost parish council.
- The Woodland Voles had agreed with Woodland Trust that the Trust would fund some information boards/signs in the wood. With the current Covid situation it was felt by the group that funds would be needed elsewhere so that had approach Cllr Brazil with regard to his Community Fund. He had agreed but these monies would be paid to Stokenham Parish Council who would pay for the signs as the Woodland Voles were a parish council

team and had no bank account.

- Currently there was a Consultation out for the Model Member Code of Conduct with response by 17th August. This would need to be considered and would be sent out.

12. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £908.12

Savings £123,371.62

Received: Nil

Payments:

HMRC – Tax & NI £171.38

Wages – £1158.63

DCC – Pension £360.43

Hawthorns Accounting Sers Ltd – Account Services £221.50

BT – Telephone and internet £191.96

Parcel2Go – Sending parcel with accounts to auditor £5.87

Cheques: None

14. NEXT MEETING

The next parish council meeting would be held online if necessary or matters would be dealt with by delegation, subject to isolation restrictions for Covid 19, unless a member of the public requested the opportunity to speak to a matter when an online meeting would be set up so that all parish councillors and public could attend.

Meeting finished 8.30p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: July 2020.