

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015 IN THE  
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

**PRESENT:****COUNCILLORS:****C. ROGERS (in the Chair)****J. ANSELL****P. SPENCE****P. MOORE****J. BRAZIL (County Councillor)****J. GARDNER****L. COWLEY****T. HOEKSMAN****MRS. C. NUTTALL-SMITH****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS****MRS P. DOUST – Illness****MRS L. WINROW - Illness****J. BAVERSTOCK (District Councillor) - Personal****A. GOODMAN - Personal****R. FOSS**

It was noted that due to personal commitments MRS Lockwood had resigned.

**1. OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

**2. 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. Cllr Rogers declared an interest in application 3061/14/F 1 Clay Park Beesands.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee none held January 2015

**4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS**

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

- 3047/14/F Householder application for conversion of loft to create 2No rooms and ensuites Molescombe House, Chillington – No objection.
- 3048/14/F Listed Building application for conversion of loft to create 2No rooms and ensuites Molescombe House, Chillington – It was noted that the plans for this application were not available on the District website. No objection.

***Cllr Rogers left the room and Cllr Ansell Chaired the following application.***

- 3061/14/F Householder application for demolition of existing lean to extensions workshop and garage. Erection of single and two storey extensions and new garage 1 Clay Park, Beesands – It was noted that the District website advised that this application was ‘Withdrawn’ on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 but no notification of this had been received by parish council and therefore they must consider it. No objection.
- 3138/14/F Householder application for replacement of conservatory with access platform and external steps. Alterations including garage extension/car port widening front door and replace existing window with French door and existing window with door South Barn, Huccombe – No objection.
- 3186/14/LB Listed building consent for new roofs and roof lights and replacement of window Sunnyside, Stokenham – No objection.
- 3190/14/F Householder application for demolition of existing single storey porch and existing single storey side/rear extension and construction of new two storey rear extension Huccombe Farmhouse, Huccombe – No objection.
- 3225/14/F Householder application for extension and alterations to existing annexe and construction of new garage Higher Oddicombe Barn, Chillington – No objection.
- 3229/14/F Householder application for single storey garage Springlands, Torcross – Objection as this proposal was not felt to be of good design and was in a prominent location in an environmentally sensitive area. It was suggested that a green roof and generally more sympathetically angled design would blend more with the locality.

Cllr Spence raised a concern that a letter of objection from a neighbour in Hallsands was not sent to parish council early enough for it to be considered with this application. There were some substantial comments which could have added to the information received by parish council and he questioned the duty to promote good neighbourliness and if residents miss an opportunity through procedural it was a pity. Discussion took place and the Chairman noted he would like to inform more people but District included a paragraph on the site notice informing residents that parish council may well meet earlier.

Cllr Cowley noted the planning application approval for Grist Mill wherein parish council raised the ongoing problem experienced by surrounding residents but that the District Grant of Approval implied that flooding was no longer a problem in Chillington. As this application was approved three years ago District it appeared could do nothing to address these current and ongoing problems but it was felt the new County Flood Team should consider such.

Cllr Spence noted that when he had looked at other council planning minutes he noted that Newton Abbot Town Council reviewed their District’s decisions and where District disagreed with their objection this was then noted on Town Council Minutes that the District opinion overrode their objection. It was noted that Stokenham Parish Council pursued a concern and did this for a proposed balcony at Beesands.

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER; GRANT OF CONDITIONAL WORKS**

- 2794/14/TW Reg. No 3576 Site: Redlands, Kiln Lane, Stokenham, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2SQ. Grant to fell Oak.

**6. PRECEPT**

It was AGREED to request the precept from District by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 as set out in the budget papers.

## **7. EMERGENCY PLAN**

No further comments or changes for inclusion within this plan were received other than updating some telephone numbers.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE ROUTE TO A379 TORCROSS TO STRETEGATE**

*This item was deferred until Cty Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting for his input.*

Discussion took place with regard to a proposal to write to Sarah Woollaston MP requesting support with regard to requesting funding for a feasibility study/action plan for proactive works of an alternative route should the A379 line be breached.

It was questioned what would happen when the line finally went and the surrounding community would be cut off. An alternative route coming from the other side of Holbrook Terrace (Chillington side) to join into Five Mile Lane up to Stanborough Hundreds could be a safer route for lorries and other vehicles. If nothing was done everything travelling to this area would have to go through Kingsbridge out to this area and this would affect many.

The Chairman and clerk had met with Andy Pratt from the Slapton Field Centre who was supportive of the proactive idea but would ultimately prefer the A379 line to remain, as repaired. Sarah Woollaston MP had requested ideas to be put forward for her to consider and ascertain if monies could be obtained for a feasibility study. A study was required to see if a new road was feasible or too expensive. However if it was too expensive this could make Government realise that more should be done and spent to keep the A379 along its current line. Cty Cllr Brazil felt that this would only happen with central Government money. He noted that County would need to be supportive and have agreed the route and probably would be the main consultee on where such route should go (as with the Kingkerswell bypass which only took 75 years!). Cty Cllr Brazil suggested that it was worth having a meeting with a strategic highways representative at County Hall to ascertain thoughts.

It was AGREED that Cty Cllr Brazil would provide contact details for the Highways Strategic Officer and a meeting would be set up which he would endeavour to attend.

## **9. PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FROM HELMERS WAY TO ORCHARD WAY**

Community requests had been received since the building of the new Helmers estate for a safe pedestrian connection off the A379 onto the pathways to Stokenham. The ransom strip that blocked foot access between Orchard and Helmers was subject to various 'Wills' but the church now owned all portions. It was hoped that the church would be open to discussion with the parish council and a formal letter requesting such in order to discuss a formula that was acceptable would be sent. The Church currently had to pay insurance on this land.

It was AGREED that an approach should be made and a letter would be sent to set up a meeting.

It was suggested that an approach could be made to the Chillington Community Association for a letter of support.

*Cllr Moore and Cty Cllr Brazil arrived.*

## **10. ELECTION YEAR**

The forthcoming parish, district and general elections were noted and it was AGREED that awareness of such should be raised through meetings and media articles. It was felt that actions should be taken with regard to highlighting such nominations and a hustings could be

incorporated into the Annual Parish Meeting. A date would be set in March once it was ascertained when the parliamentary session ended.

It was AGREED to arrange a hustings as part of the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **11. TORCROSS PARKING CHARGES**

The charges received from District for Torcross tank car park were £3797.23 + VAT and Torcross layby £2479.17 + VAT with regard to the overnight income.

It was AGREED that nothing was to be achieved by voting for a change and it was felt that the machines did not accommodate for the users. District would be advised that no change take place.

#### **12. REPORTS**

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

Cllr Gardner noted that Sally O'Dwyer was now Secretary and that Greg Chambers was to join the committee.

##### **SLAPTON FIELD CENTRE**

The Chairman noted that when attending the field centre on another matter he had raised the annual hedge trimming of the ley and the field centre acknowledged that this could go ahead. Parish Council would arrange and pay for such.

##### **COLERIDGE CROSS**

It was noted that flooding had occurred just up from Coleridge Cross and works were required to the buddles and grips. Adam Key had met with contractors and the Chairman had stopped by on seeing discussion taking place. The Chairman reported that the original works had not relieved the problem and that a larger digger was to be brought in and further works done.

##### **BEE SANDS**

Cllr Moore noted that a new geo textile sock had been placed to angle the end of the defence works back in around.

At the old fishermans cottages the hedge had been overgrown and a tractor and another man in an additional van had arrived to carry out maintenance to 40 yards long of hedge. It was noted that these contractors had come from Newton Abbot and when questioned did not appear to feel they needed Chapter 8 training or signs.

##### **CLERK'S REPORT**

- Works had been carried out by the County contractors on the gullies along from Coleridge Cross but these had not successfully removed the flooding. Further meetings to consider the problem were to take place and it was hoped that contractors could reopen an overflow pipe.
- A speed test was to be carried out on the A379 just along from the Chillington Post Office to ascertain whether there is a problem in this area.
- A Super Cluster Meeting had been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> February 6.30p.m. at Follaton House. This meeting would allow attending councils to discuss the TAP Fund applications. It had

been suggested that in view of the other applications the Stokenham original bid may now be included. Cllrs Cowley and Gardner would attend.

- BT Business section advised that the council phone service could be reduced from £22.90 per month to Business Complete £13.20 per month (plus £3.90 for 7 days a week priority faults). This would give 500 mins free for local, national, 0845 and 0874 calls so would effectively remove £76 per quarter in calls and cap mobile numbers at 20pence per call. It would however start a 2 year contract and termination of such contract would incur a fine. It was agreed this should be put in place.

### **13. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Dist. Cllr. Baverstock provided the following report by email:

On 18 December 2014, the Council approved a revised T18 Business Case, which identified additional savings and opportunities which had emerged during further detailed work on the future organisational design;

Both SHDC and West Devon Borough Council have agreed to appoint Mr Steve Jorden to the position of Executive Director (Strategy and Commissioning) and Head of Paid Service. Steve is currently the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services and will be starting his new role early in the New Year;

At its meeting on 11 December 2014, the Executive agreed to open up the 2015/16 Budget Setting Process for consultation. The process will culminate with a set of Budget proposals being presented to the full Council meeting on 12 February 2015;

The Council has agreed to make changes to its governance structure, with effect from the 2015/16, as follows:-

- That the Executive membership be reduced to 6;
- That the membership of the Development Management Committee be retained at 12; and
- That the Corporate Performance and Resources; Community Life and Housing; and Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panels be formally disbanded and replaced by one Overview and Scrutiny Panel, which has a membership of 13.

With each of the 31 Members of Council being appointed to serve on one of these 3 Member Bodies;

The Council has been notified that its central government grant funding for 2015/16 is anticipated to be £3.156 million (a reduction of £550,000 (14.8%) in comparison to 2014/15);

The Council has agreed that the existing Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2014/15 be extended until the next review is concluded early in the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

The following news releases have been published by the Communications Team during this week:-

Flood Funding to Provide Additional Protection for Sea Defences at Torcross and the Slapton Line Road; Note this work was about to start with a budget of some £250,000. I can only hope that the tide will not push the shingle back to Strete Gate as soon as it is returned to Torcross. Time will tell.

### **14. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cty Cllr Brazil noted that the County had been considering their budget and that £1.7 million would be removed from the subsidising of bus routes. Also there were concerns with regard to care for the vulnerable and elderly in that there were no carers who lived in this area and thus there was no one to assist if a call was put out for helpers.

He also noted the flooded areas at Coleridge and the works referred to by the Chairman. With regard to Coleridge Cottages down on the A379 he had asked Paul Taper District Engineer to draw up a design for a project and put this to County so that he could request that this go in the Capital

Project Budget. It would take time for this to move up the list but it would be some comfort for those who were affected by flooding to know it was being actioned.

**15. FINANCE AND CHEQUES**

Balances were provided and the below cheques were noted and agreed for signature:

Current £12141.26

Savings (1) £37959.58

Savings (2) £4923.67

Transferred: £NIL

Received: Final Footpaths grant payment £4334.00

002197 M.J. Hallett – Hedgetrimming at Helmers playingfield/roadside £72.00

002198 HMRC NI & Tax £238.27

002199 Wages £1101.66.

**16. NEXT MEETING**

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 19th February 2014. Planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in February 2015 if further plans needing consideration in the interim were received. All meetings were to commence at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.15p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman      Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015.