

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON 19TH MAY 2016 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

P. SPENCE (Chairman)

J. ANSELL

A. GOODMAN

T. HOEKSMAN

T. LYNN

MRS S. O'DWYER

MRS C. PEARCE

J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)

L. COWLEY

J. GARDNER

MRS P. DOUST

C. ROGERS

MRS C. PACK

Also in attendance:

Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLORS:

MRS S. BLADON

1. ELECTION AND DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

It was unanimously AGREED to elect Cllr Spence as Chair and Cllr Gardner as Vice Chair and they duly signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

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.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 21st April 2016 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting none held in May 2016.
- (c) Annual Parish Meeting held 10th May 2016 – noted for approval next Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Rogers arrived at the meeting.

4. REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMITTEES

It was AGREED to amend the representatives on Committees and outside organisations list as below:

Beeson Village Green – Cllr Rogers

Beesands Village Green – Cllrs Ansell and Rogers

Beesands Flood Gate Co-Ord – Richard Foss, as historically selected by the Environment Agency

Coleridge Bus – Cllr Cowley

Chillington Community Association – Cllrs Gardner and Mrs Doust

Coleridge Association of Parish Councils – Cllrs Ansell and Spence

Community Voluntary Service – Cllr S. Bladon
 Emergency Plan – John Baverstock, as brings professional knowledge of such co-ordination to the group
 Footpaths – Cllrs Rogers and Goodman
 Health Care Meetings – Cllr Gardner
 Kingsbridge & Salcombe Estuary Forum – Cllrs Ansell and Lynn
 Parish Council Finance Working Group – Cllrs Spence, Rogers, Cowley and Gardner
 Parish Website Working Party – Cllrs Gardner, Spence and Mrs Pearce
 Slapton Line Partnership – Cllrs Goodman and Lynn
 Snow Wardens – Cllr Lynn
 Stokenham Parish Hall Committee – Cllr Mrs Doust will attend if requested by the Hall Committee.
 Stokenham Parish Tree Warden – Cllr Spence
 Stokenham Village Community Association – Cllr Cowley
 Stokenham Village Green Committee – Cllr Mrs Pack
 Young People and Schools Liaison – Cllr Mrs O’Dwyer and Mrs Pearce

5. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following annual payments were noted and APPROVED:

Devon Playing Field Association and Community Council of Devon £50.00

Coleridge Association of Parish Councils £20.00

Data Protection Act £35.00

Society of Local Council Clerks (subscription shared with Salcombe Town Council for the annual membership of £210p.a.) £105

Insurance renewable 1st June 2016 at **£809.21** increased from £775.59 due to tax increasing from 6% to 9.5%. This quotation was valid if parish council continued on a long term agreement to expire 2017 which they ratified at the previous years meeting. It was noted that the play equipment at Chillington together with playing field, gates and fences were still not included as the land was not yet legally transferred although grass cutting was undertaken by parish.

6. INSPECTION OF DEEDS.

The following documents were APPROVED and noted:

- Beesands Village Green Constitution signed 20th January 2011 wherein the District Councillor acts as Chairman with two parish councillors nominated to represent Stokenham Parish Council along with four residents of Beesands elected to serve thereon. They were currently Cllrs Rogers and Ansell agreed in 2015 to continue as Rob Steer, Alan Steer, Steph Dean and Joe Johnston. Every four years (i.e. 2015 and thereafter 2019) if alternative residents wished to be considered for the committee a ballot would be held by Stokenham Parish Council to decide on such village representatives. Parish Council retain or change their representatives, as applicable, at this annual meeting each year.

- No documentation had ever been provided by Devon County Council or South Hams District Council in relation to the placement of bus shelters on land at Beesands, Carehouse Cross, Stokenham and two in Chillington opposite the post office and at Meadowside. However purchase invoices exist for Kellaton Bus Shelter. Two further bus shelters had been placed by Parson Brinkerhoff on behalf of Devon County Council at Fairfield and Robins Field, Chillington during May 2008 but no legal documentation had been received apart from plans. Parish Council was also gifted these with the understanding that they were now responsible for maintenance and insurance of such.

- Devon County Council had entered into an agreement with parish council for the erection of hanging baskets and the placement of a Christmas tree on County owned land within the

triangle at Torcross. Such agreement terms with nominee residents as to maintenance required updating with current representatives in Torcross.

- The Permissive Path Footpath Agreement between all landowners that the footpath passes across from Stokenham to Torcross dated June 2005 was noted. This was to run for at least a term of 15 years, due to funding criteria, until June 2020. The Stokeley Lodge property was now in new ownership and during the year works had been carried out as a goodwill gesture to the fence and gate along this section. The new owners had carried out tree works this year which it was suggested should be supported by parish council but no works agreement nor had invoices been received to allow such to be considered.
- There were currently no loans, leases or other agreements in relation to land or equipment save for the maintenance agreement for the council Kyocera photocopier held by the clerk.
- The current Bank Mandate allowed for cheque signatories Chairman Cllr Rogers, Cllr Cowley and Cllr Goodman, together with the clerk also being a signatory to enable occasional necessary cheques to be signed in the absence of two of the aforementioned and for the clerk to be able to obtain bank balances and action inter account transfers. Internet banking had been set up with Cllr Cowley having access to overview the accounts each month and two councillors approving the payments before release each month.
- A Permissive Path had been created between Helmers Way and Orchard Way with the agreement of the landowners Stokenham Church and Taylor Wimpey who held a ransom strip. Parish Council had care and maintenance of the footway entrance/boundary but not the public paths either side belonging to Devon County Council on the Orchard Way side and Taylor Wimpey on the Helmers Way side.

7. WEBSITE

The website was created in 2015 and more information and policy documents were added as and when to meet the Transparency criteria. It was decided the previous year that advertising for local businesses would be provided at no charge during 2015-16. It was AGREED this year to provide a regular news update and that charging would be reintroduced for advertising with Cllrs Spence, Gardner and Mrs Pearce meeting to discuss who would take on which duties.

8. OPEN FORUM

John Bickford Ivy House, Chillington attended to explain that the old hedge between his property and next door had deteriorated and both property owners wished to replace this with a more suitable boundary (i.e. a stone wall in between). There was an old derelict wall adjacent to the boundary of the Chillington playing field perimeter behind the football posts towards the stream which was on land owned by his neighbour. Mr Bickford explained that the wall was made up of heavy stones at the bottom end and his problem was on how to get them from there to his property. A friend had agreed to loan his tractor and trailer to be parked up and loaded and then transport the stone. The non-favoured way was to take a trailer uphill behind the village hall car park and then carry the stones to the trailer. Mr Bickford felt that a quicker way would be to lift the stones over the playing field fence onto a trailer parked behind the football posts. The fence in question was about 4.6ft and he felt the boggy patch on the playing field side was not of significant quality and would just need scaffolding planks laid on it. Although it would be hard work to lift the stone over the fence onto scaffolding and push it along to the trailer he felt it was easier than dragging the stone up the hill. In view of the forthcoming storms forecast for August he wished to do this project in July but acknowledged the bird nesting problems. Therefore he reason for attending and request was that he wanted permission to take the stone over the fence, onto a trailer and drive across the playing field around to his house.

Cllr Rogers had visited and noted the wall and knew the owner of the tractor and trailer, Dave Randle. With his professional knowledge Cllr Rogers advised that with such a trailer and tractor

it was not possible to get into the playing field land as it was boggy in this area all year round. Also on his visit he noted nesting wrens and slow worms in the wall. Personally he felt that this was an old wall and always had been there and it was a shame to lose such a natural wildlife habitat. He questioned whether it was cost of stone or the need to match it. Mr Bickford noted that if he could not obtain this wall he would have to put up wooden fence. He went on to explain that he would use one inch plywood sheets for the tractor and trailer tyres. Cllr Rogers advised this would not work as the plywood would break under the weight of the vehicles and stone. The only way he felt it would be possible would be to wheelbarrow the stone on planks.

The Chairman advised he had walked around the area with the parish clerk and Mr Bickford and agreed it was marginally less work to go to the effort to make scaffolding and raising the stones and pushing over fence to the tractor than to take a four wheel drive down the other side. However if the removal was carried out in the adjacent field there was a 100% certainty that the playing field would not be damaged. The other way there was a material percentage that the playing field would be damaged. There were birds nesting and some trees would need a degree of lopping so this would be a thorny issue that made it further problematical so that the instinct was to say no. If Mr Bickford did go into the playing field the project would also need £5million public liability insurance and involve putting up safety fencing to keep children away and the journey would cross the zip wire. Security fencing must be 5metres from any play equipment so this would theoretically close the zip wire for the duration.

Parish Council thanked Mr Bickford for bringing this request to them but unfortunately the answer was no as there was incremental risk to one of the few assets that parish council had care of.

John Bickford left the meeting.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil gave this report later in the meeting when he arrived.

The Annual District Council meeting returned all the same people in the various posts. One issue forthcoming as District Councillor was the planning application for Green Park Way and he advised he would be available when the application was going to be heard locally.

County also had their Annual meeting last week. Cllr Brazil had met at the beginning of this week with a resident at Torcross in relation to fishermen's access to the beach. Following this meeting the District Council engineer also visited Beesands and what was encouraging was that District had secured Environment Agency funding for Beesands. He noted that the Village Green Committee did not want to throw money away so would use some of this money for a feasibility study on possible defence solutions such as sheet piling with the possibility of making at least one slipway accessible. District Council were very open to this route for using the funding and agreed they were thinking along the same lines. Hallsands was now under control after the residents had carried out their works.

He attended a meeting in Kingsbridge with regard to dementia awareness and there was quite a strong network supporting people and carers of people with dementia. As there were various activities going on around (guided walks, drop in memory cafes etc) if anyone knew of someone who needed assistance he asked that councillors and residents direct them to him so he could put them in contact.

Cllr Rogers noted the British Telecom road surface problem at Beeson Pool and stated that the spring that was causing the problem in the ducting needed to be addressed and asked Cllr Brazil to intervene.

9. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 1246/16/HHO Householder application for a conservatory extension Cranford, Holmleigh Road, Torcross – No objection.
- 1255/16/HHO Householder application for the re-application of approved application 3040/15/HHO but with change of roof material Cartref, Kiln Lane, Stokenham – Objection as the proposed green slate was not in keeping with the locality and in a highly visible position. Parish Council recommended graphite grey slate.
- 1404/16/LBC Listed Building Consent to replace existing window with patio door Bay Tree Cottage, Chillington – No objection to a change of window to patio door but the ‘illustrative’ picture appeared to indicate that there was an additional change by the extension of the adjacent wall and inclusion of a further velux which did not accord with the description provided for this application.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- 1520/16/TCA Works to Trees in a Conversation Area received by email 19th May to fell 5 Eucalyptus at The Church House Inn, Stokenham – No objection.

10. HALLSANDS SIGNAGE

Cllr Mrs Pearce explained there had been lots of work done by the residents at Hallsands to ensure that fishermen could continue to access the beach but lately the area had become very busy with people kayaking etc. What was required were signs to explain that this was a working beach and motorists needed to leave access for the fishermen and emergency vehicles. She was asked if there was any parking for public down there. Cllr Mrs Pearce explained there was the section outside where it was cordoned off for residents but others parked on the beach, by the winch or anywhere they could squeeze. The key would be getting the wording right and in actual locations that were not just on private property with the signs being big enough for users to see.

The Chairman requested a plan of where the signs were required along with draft wording and Cllr Cowley noted that any signs on a highway had to be County approved signs. A fingerpost footpath sign was also required to be reinstated. Cllr Rogers wished it Minuted ‘well done to Hallsands residents and local landowner in getting the coastal footpath and access sorted out. Currently an area was being cleared by the shed which would be fenced off for a fishermen’s area.

It was AGREED that a draft outline of the location and wording of signs to be placed at Hallsands would be provided and agreed before an application would be sought by parish council to the County Councillor’s locality budget.

11. REPORTS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Following the Annual Parish meeting the intention was for the consultation display board to be taken to areas around the parish for further feedback. It was AGREED as follows:

Torcross - Sue Bladon agreed to take the Board on her return from holiday

Beesands/Beeson – Beeson Village Green event and Cllr Mrs Pearce would take it to Beesands Chapel

Chillington – Cllrs Mrs Doust, Mrs O’Dwyer, Cowley and Spence would attend the Chillington Community Association AGM on 22nd June

Stokenham – Cllr Cowley 2nd July Parish Fete and possibly it could go 26th July to the Ceilidh Kellaton or Kernborough – Fran Ansell would be asked if they would display it at their Queen’s Street Party on the 11^h June.

BEESANDS VILLAGE GREEN GROUP

Cllr Rogers noted that there had been a strong feeling previously that most on the group did not want the Village Green use to change at all and were against further parking. At this recent meeting one of the people against changed completely and therefore there were now only two against parking and one of them was being swayed by local opinion. It was also suggested to redefine the Village Green boundary at Beesands. The committee was now investigating extending the small car park on the Green towards Beesands Cellars end. Cllr Brazil had gone to look at the legal aspects to ascertain if this was possible as the Green was being further eroded and becoming a very nice beach which needed parking access. Nigel from the pub was also having people coming down to the pub only for them not to be able to park and thus cancelling their booking so he was losing trade. As County and District Councillor of this area it was his job to represent all who wanted to use the area and therefore he had to look at every option.

There had been a further slipway formed onto the beach which was not accepted by one person at the meeting who was told that fishermen just wanted access to the beach and were not going to litter the beach with equipment so others felt this was not a problem. Cllr Brazil was also asked to find out how the rest of the Village Green was going to be tidied up as all the old safety fence posts and debris needed to be removed and holes filled. A suggestion given by the one person against further parking was that the underused fishermen’s compound could be adapted. District Council had secured £120,000 in funding but this was just half of what was already spent before on defence so it was suggested that an expert engineer’s report be obtained so that there was a project to allow further monies to be sought for a larger scheme.

Also in relation to the Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Plan it was questioned whether parish council should enquire if a project should proceed to move the current play area to the land in front of the terrace of houses behind the toilets as this was felt more sustainable. Cllr Spence agreed to create a further panel on this for the consultation board.

CHILLINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Cllr Mrs Doust noted that the Secretary, Treasurer and Chris Hyson were standing down at the Annual Meeting in September. Now other than Parish Councillors the only officer remaining would be the Chairman. An article had gone in the Gazette stating the hall was going to close if nobody came forward and someone in the local shop noted they were shocked reading this news. Others approached had indicated they would come forward if it was a completely new start.

The Chairman was asked to make contact with the CCA Chairman and advise that if it the Committee were going to fold could parish council have prior notice so they could put something in place as they did not want them to just dissolve the Association and walk away.

Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting.

DCH – ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Gardner advised that as he had been requested he made contact with DCH with regard to their allotments but to date had not had the courtesy of a response.

HALLSANDS DISASTER ANNIVERSARY

Cllr Lynn noted that he, Cllr Mrs Pearce and a few other residents were planning a big event in January to commemorate the old Hallsands Village events. There would be a candlelight parade from Hallsands to Beesands. They intended to involve Stokenham School, there would be something held in the church at Beesands Chapel or perhaps Stokenham together with a event in the Cricket Inn with Shanty Singing. Another idea was a BBQ on Hallsands beach in August. The Parish Clerk advised them to seek insurance for public liability for the organising Group. Any profit from monies raised would go to the Fisheries Missionary/Commission. Cllr Rogers noted that he had advised a resident from Bickerton of a play about Hallsands that had been performed at Dartmouth Flavel.

Cllr Brazil gave his report, as above, at this point in the meeting before leaving

CLERK'S REPORT

- District Council advised that they were working hard to deal with dog mess across the South Hams and were encouraging residents and parish/towns to advise them of problem areas and report people at <http://www.southhams.gov.uk/tellus>
- From 9 May, the Secretary of State had increased penalties, with a minimum fine of £150.00, up to a maximum of £400.00. For South Hams District Council, this was an increase of £75.00 on the minimum fine payable. Last year alone, illegal fly tipping cost Council tax payers, a massive £31,998. As well as spoiling the countryside, fly-tipping was illegal, bad for the environment and often a health hazard to people and animals. District Council advised everyone to deal with their waste sensibly and ensure that those who used contractors used registered firms as otherwise any rubbish found dumped would be their responsibility.
- The Torcross Defence representative had updated and advised of their residents' response sent to the Environment Agency with regard to the options for work favouring Option 5 although there were additional points that needed clarification. In the longer term, they hoped, in conjunction with ongoing replenishment in front of The Wall, there could be an examination of Start Bay's "closed system" to so that hopefully the area around this coast could be understood better, (if indeed it remained closed) and for any beach management to be carried out on a "Whole Bay Basis"©. It was understood that fishermen collected data (what type was unclear) on behalf of the MMO presumably to form the basis of/help in the production of a tidal/bathymetric survey of the Bay. It appeared that the Environment Agency would have a further consultation with a meeting in Stokenham Parish Hall but this was as yet unconfirmed and it was not known on what they were to consult.
- The Parish Council Solicitors had submitted a draft Transfer (email dated 28th April) relating to the Helmers Way land to District Council and awaited their response with the final document for signature.
- An offensive childish picture had been drawn in the bus shelter opposite Chillington Post Office so it required repainting.

12. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

PARISH COUNCIL PENSION SCHEME

The first years payment and annual return to the Local Government Pension Scheme had been submitted and acknowledgement of details received was awaited.

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

Current £1501.33

Savings (1) £56,768.00

Savings (2) £4927.17

Transferred £

Received

Payments:

Eclipse – Internet £14.40

HMRC – Tax & NI £185.18

Wages £1069.94

DCC Pension Fund – Pension payment £330.81

Hawthorns Accounting Sers. Ltd. – Internal Audit £170.00

Greenspace Grounds Maintenance – Tanpits play area £165.00

Currys – Replacement Council Telephone £44.99

Cheques:

SHDC – CCA Planning Application for Calor Tank £97.50

Sue Bladon – Travel £20.00 (£20, 40 miles £18, plus passenger Tom H £2)

Burfords Locksmiths – Chillington Playing Field gate coded padlock £25.31

13. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 16th June 2016 and a planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in June 2016, if necessary. due to plans being received. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 16th June 2016.