

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE  
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

**PRESENT:****COUNCILLORS:****J. GARDNER (Chairman)****J. ANSELL****A. GOODMAN****MRS C. PEARCE****T. LYNN****MRS S. O'DWYER****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****MRS S. ROWLAND****L. COWLEY****MRS S. BLADON****MRS P. DOUST****C. ROGERS****MRS C. PACK****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS: P. SPENCE****1. OPEN FORUM**

No members of the public in attendance.

**DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Brazil advised that the main issue at County remained the post 16year old transport as they were withdrawing support to 17 and 18 yr olds. The annual fee would be £580 of which County would have paid half. County Council now suggested that colleges or schools would assist those who needed it but the colleges and schools said there was no spare money.

With regard to District Council at Executive today they looked at the medium term financial strategy and currently finances were not looking bad with receipts from the New Homes Bonus. The Community Reinvestment Fund was inviting projects and all those able to bid in due to taking housing should do so. With regard to the Green Park Way development site the earliest this would be considered by District Planning Committee was the October meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> but this was only if all information was ready. At that point Parish Council could attend and make a representation from the parish council but not on behalf of individuals and this would be down to the objectors to nominate a local representative.

The Parish Clerk enquired whether the Village Sustainability Assessment consultation included this parish as they were an Area Centre. Cllr Brazil felt it might be applicable to the outer villages in the parish but was unsure.

Cllr Ansell had read the peer review of development management and felt it was not firm enough on matters such as enforcement control considering structures being built where people had no permission. Dist Cllr Brazil agreed that he was tired of apologising to his parishes all year whilst the District Council schemes and plans were not working. Cllr Rogers highlighted an application which neighbouring people were totally disappointed about as the development that has been carried out was not what was approved. Cllr Cowley noted that part of the action plan for the Peer Review was that parish councils would be advised why their objection to any application was over ruled by the planning department and this would be extremely helpful to know why. Dist Cllr

Brazil agreed that historically there used to be quarterly meetings with clerks where these sorts of issues could be addressed.

## 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. None received.

## 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

- (a) full council meeting dated 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting – none held

## 4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 2533/16/FUL Proposal to construct a new sheet pile wall, to a maximum depth of 12m, approximately 1m in front of the existing sea wall and use of the Exercise Tiger Memorial car park as a temporary contractors compound for the duration of the works Sea Wall defence at SX 823 421, Beachfront, Torcross – No objection to the proposal but concern was raised as to whether it was reasonable to use the whole of the tank car park for this and that at least 30 car parking spaces should be left available to support the businesses. Parish Council were concerned that this construction did not affect the viability of the local businesses and suggested that a temporary entrance could allow car park usage and perhaps some storage be held up in the middle car park.
- **This application was listed on the 20-26<sup>th</sup> August Lists with a response by 24<sup>th</sup> September** : 2613/16/HHO Householder application for extension to east and west sides of bungalow and re site access to property Ashcroft, Kiln Lane, Stokenham – **The drawings online were not felt to be satisfactory to provide a response and as no paper copy had been received parish council asked that further information be provided as a hard copy.**

### PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- 2483/16/FUL New bedroom dwelling Little Beeches, Torcross – The Parish Clerk was requested to seek advice from Development Management as to the approval decision on the land adjacent to this property when parish council raised flooding concerns. Once this information was received this application would be considered at planning committee.

*The following item was discussed just after Open Forum before Dist Cllr Brazil left the meeting.*

## 5. BEESANDS

The Beesands Village Green Advisory Group was set up to comment on the Village Green and it was felt that parish council should be considering parking and the play equipment for the whole parish. At the time funds were diverted to Beesands for the play equipment the surface matting was not flagged up as unsuitable in this coastal location but now it was not safe and the playground was closed. Beach gravel was getting into the play equipment mechanisms so this asset would be ruined unless moved. There were two site options one further down the Green

towards Beesands Cellars or on part of the District land in front of the Higher Terrace houses. It was suggested that this was the only piece of land in Beesands that was high up and suitable and owned by District Council. The land was put in the land assessment as a possible housing site but District threw this out as unsuitable. Concern had been raised by a Village Green representative that the site was too near to the road and the entrance not visible but it was felt that if the access was opened up to the toilets and a gate installed this was not a problem. Down at the Beesands Cellars end of the Green was remote, too hidden and low set. If the play area was moved additional parking could be considered on the current play area land.

A resident had a letter/email written by District which he said stated it was a criminal offence to park on the green but it was believed that all sorts of things could take place on the green if the owners allowed such.

It was AGREED Parish Council write to South Hams District Council and ask them to look at:

- (a) the ongoing provision of a play area and possible relocation in front of Higher Terrace
- (b) parking provision within the village by extending both car parks into the play area and at car park the Cellars end.

Cllr Gardner asked if it could be requested that the play equipment be removed and stored for safety leaving the swings and slide until the new area agreed. It was suggested that the Community Reinvestment Fund could be used for this.

## **6. SUMMERYE LANE FOOTPATH JUNCTION**

The recent damage created by the flash flooding was explained and consideration of remedial or long term works required to this footpath explained by Cllr Rogers. Cllr Mrs Doust noted that the 16<sup>th</sup> June flood took away pieces of the surface and it was quite uneven and this had been drawn to her attention. Cllr Rogers advised he would do voluntary remedial works to make good the walking surface. It was noted that the actual path could have washed away if this work had not been instigated. The pipe that crossed from the field the other side of the lane was not big enough at 18inches and needed another 18inches for the capacity of water nowadays. Paul McFadden County Footpath Warden thought County could put another pipe there as area was eroding into the field so there were cost implications.

It was AGREED to apply to the Community Reinvestment Fund for clearance of all the buddle holes along this section of footpath.

Cllr Mrs Pack advised that the stiles into Millennium Wood were degrading and needed attention. This work to stiles and the footpath pipe could be directed to Paul McFadden. Cllr Mrs Rowland enquired whether the footpath above the caravan site could be drained so it was not so muddy but this would probably cost in the region of £20,000 and buddle holes should do this. Maintenance would struggle to keep it in a good condition due to farmers and tractors using the lane and run off.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

Ongoing requirements for office provision required attention with regard to the computer connections, line provision and photocopier. It was AGREED that these could be addressed immediately within the current budget approved of £2300.00.

## **8. LAND TRANSFER**

The Transfer had taken place on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016. It was noted that there had been an incident over the Bank Holiday weekend where youngsters had been left at the hall after a family event

and continued playing loud music and were rowdy until 12.30a.m. This matter had been acknowledged and dealt with speedily by the Chillington Community Association and the resident who lodged the complaint was believed satisfied.

It was AGREED;

- (a) that a quote be obtained from the solicitors to provide a letter of comfort with regard to the covenant for the size of the hall
- (b) to obtain quotes for annual play equipment checks along with a template for regular inspections to be carried out by councillors and volunteers
- (c) the outstanding matters covered was awaiting the template from District for hire/licence for use of the open space along with any charging scales previously levied. Cllr Rogers also suggested that the forthcoming precept should build in the ongoing increased maintenance of this area. Cllr Cowley suggested a meeting should be arranged with the Chillington Community Association to discuss the general guidelines on what they could or could not do without obtaining permission from parish council.

## **9. DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

It was AGREED that Cllr Mrs Pearce would attend on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at Newton Abbot Racecourse for this event to be advised on the latest local position on devolution and updating in County matters at a cost of £20 per person.

## **10. REPORTS**

Various issues raised around the parish:

- Cllr Lynn advised that toilets at Hallsands were needed as there was excrement left everywhere. The area was no so busy with people that it was felt portaloos should be installed during the six weeks of the summer holidays as otherwise the mess was disgusting and not acceptable. Cllr Mrs Doust also noted that the end by Beesands Cellars it was the same and they had toilets. The cost of installation of portaloos at Hallsands would be researched and if acceptable something put in the precept. Also at Hallsands motorhome owners had been emptying their toilets up the lanes. On the flip side it was questioned where they should empty them and there was nowhere across this area outside of a camp site. It was questioned whether there should be somewhere within public toilets to have a disposal point.
- With regard to parking at Hallsands Cllr Mrs Pearce had spoken to the management company and after completing the sea defence works they were to look at parking as their next project.
- Following a request it had been advised that no new bins were being installed by District but Hallsands asked if they could be provided with a larger one.
- Adjacent to the main A379 there was a dead branch/wood which looked in danger of falling and the Tree Warden would be asked to take a look and advise.
- At the Beesands Village Green Advisory Committee meeting Dist Cllr Brazil had reported that there was to £120,000 more defence works carried out. Cllr Mrs Doust noted that she had received a response from Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, in response to her enquiry on behalf of a resident, that she had met with the Environment Agency and other partners and they would be undertaking these further works.
- Further discussion with regard to the Golden Meadow, Widewell development took place with concerns raised from residents. The garage had moved more towards the road and there was inadequate parking which compounded the problem.

- It was noted that the Chillington Community Association wanted to install a table tennis table outside and was still pursuing a MUGA. They also required the goal posts repainted and it was requested that quotes be obtained or costed to purchase new posts.

### **TORCROSS**

Following an observation by Cllr Ms Bladon with regard to the maintenance of the Butterfly Field Andy Pratt from the Field Centre had agreed they could advise on a schedule of works which volunteers could undertake.

### **APPLE FAYRE**

This would take place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October before the next full council meeting. A rota was required for assisting on operating the Apple Press along with volunteers to help with transporting the apples. Cllr Rogers noted that he had agreed to assist in collecting the Apple Press.

### **CLERK'S REPORT**

- Parish Clerk enquired whether the further retaining wall in Orchard Way been completed and how the ongoing maintenance of vegetation was to be undertaken? Nigel Mortimer offered to go down and coppice the trees.
- A resident noted that there were contractors trimming the grass verges in Chillington. When asked if they were intending to sweep up the cuttings they advised that they had only been contracted to cut. As a result there was a significant amount of cuttings left on the road waiting to be washed into the drains by the next downfall of rain. This type of debris blocked the drains throughout the village but particularly on Oddicombe Corner and caused flooding. Given the awareness of Chillington's problem with flooding she did not understand why the council would exacerbate the risk and asked for feedback. Parish Council noted that they undertook this task for County Council as they no longer budgeted for such and were content with the works carried out.
- Community Reinvestment Fund Project applications needed to be in by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and meet each of the following eligibility criteria:
  - Be community led;
  - Be capital in nature;
  - Have a lasting impact; and
  - Provide or improve community infrastructure (e.g. projects involving community buildings, sports facilities, play areas, community allotments / gardens / orchards) in towns or parishes that meet the above development criteria. It was suggested that the Town and Parish Fund could be used to provide Hallsands portaloos.
- Janie Moor of Citizens Advice Bureau would like to come and speak to parish council and had suggested attending the November meeting and this was agreed.
- Dr Sarah Wollaston MP would be visiting on 21<sup>st</sup> October at Stokenham Hall and Cllr Gardner noted she had asked if parish council wished to meet before at 5.30p.m. to 6p.m. to discuss any issues. Those present wished to do so.

## **11 FINANCE AND CHEQUES**

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

Current £2429.50

Savings (1) £49,821.57

Savings (2) £4928.01

Transferred £1000.00

Received - Nil

***Payments made in August:***

Eclipse – Internet £14.40  
 Stokenham Parish Hall – Annual payment for hire of hall £525.00  
 HMRC – Tax & NI £190.63  
 Wages £1077.96  
 DCC Pension Fund – Pension payment £344.03  
 First Guides – Grant £500.00  
 Eclipse – Back payments for Internet usage since April £43.20  
 Greenspace – July Helmers Cuts £110.00  
 Came & Co – Helmers Playing Field increase in insurance due to land Transfer £165.44

***Payments made in September:***

Wages £1077.96  
 HMRC £190.63  
 DCC Pension Fund – Pension payment £334.11  
 Hawthorns Accounting Sers Ltd – Payslips April - September £48.00  
 Concorde Copiers – Copier maintenance £6.28  
 Orchard Link – Apple Press for Fayre £45.00

**12. NEXT MEETING**

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016. A planning committee meeting would be held on the first Thursday in October 2016, if necessary, due to plans being received that required an earlier response. Both meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 10p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman      Dated: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016.