

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2018 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****J. ANSELL****T. LYNN****W. FLETCHER-NEAL****MRS P. DOUST****L. COWLEY****MRS. S. ROWLAND****R. JACKSON****C. ROGERS****J. GARDNER****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****MRS T DAYMENT****A. GOODMAN****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) Parish council meeting dated 14th December 2017 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.
- (b) Planning Committee meeting none held January 2018.

3. OPEN FORUM

Mr and Mrs Johnston reiterated points from their email with regard to Beam Ends. Balcony full width of eastern end, entire balcony overlooked their garden from 9 metres away and could see into bedroom and living room. He had met the applicant who said he would consider putting new plans in without the balcony and son confirmed this today. Only address on plans as they stand. No objection to extension only balcony and doorway from bedroom out on to balcony/flat roof. Chairman asked whether he had made a formal objection to District so that they were aware of this. A councillor enquired if there was any way that the balcony could be screened but as it did not face the sea this was not a view matter nor possible.

John Churton was also present in Open Forum at this point.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil gave this report when he arrived at a later point in the meeting. He commenced with his County report noting there was nothing specific affecting Stokenham. There had been a meeting before Christmas which formed a new joint committee of Devon and Somerset

representatives such as chairman, leader and deputy from all councils involved in this grouping to seek to obtain powers and monies devolved from central Government.

County was in the middle of their budget process and following the cabinet meeting they now had revenue budgets for departmental funding set but the detail was still evolving. County Council budget would be announced on the day of the next parish council meeting. His was particularly concerned with regard to provision for adult social care and Tumbly Hill, Kingsbridge. Devon's final Government settlement was slightly better than was anticipated which was realistically just less bad news. The additional local fund from business rates was complicated but Devon had been picked out as a pilot and would receive more money. The intention of this payment was to encourage local councils to stimulate economic growth so were baseline and any growth (i.e. more businesses) would provide benefit from that increase in business tax income. Cllr Brazil felt the whole project was highly complicated and far from transparent. Government had also raised the threshold at which a referendum could be triggered from 2 % to 3% so County Council would go up to 3%.

For District Council Government had allowed an increase in planning charges by 20% from the following week. This would raise in the region of an extra £110,000 ringfenced for planning and enforcement. Another enforcement officer and more planning officers would be employed. Overview and scrutiny had met and their comments would go to Executive and then that would go to Full Council with regard to the budget on 22nd February. Main points were looking to devolve the running of public toilets to parish councils but as Stokenham was on the coastal path these facilities would be maintained by District. Putting up car parking charges by 2% would raise a small amount towards ongoing costs. Cllr Brazil however advised that he had never known District Council to be putting more money into reserves than they were at present (New Homes Bonus, business rates retention, Langage Appeal – rates £4million, second homes £1.8million from charging tax on Stamp Duty and distributed to areas of second homes). District Council had a lot more wriggle room than County Council with regard to budget setting. So many services had been cut that there was not much more to cut.

Cllr Ansell thanked Cllr Brazil for attending Kellaton village along with the flood team officer. Whilst there was disagreement on who owned the drain if the gulleys were not cleared then the water would back up. Cllr Brazil noted that Devon County might be able to get drains cleared once a year but once cleaned all it took was a downpour and they would overflow. He suggested that the parish should precept for emergency works on say 5 or so problem drains within the parish. Lisa Edmonds, the Highway Officer, had passed on her thanks to the community around Kellaton who had cleared up 3 or 4 times over the Christmas period.

Cllr Lynn also thanked Cllr Brazil for writing to the Post Office and ensuring the retention of the the post box at Hallsands. He also noted the devastation of the highway down into Hallsands as his personal opinion was that too large works vehicles serving Seagulls development had eaten the side of the lanes up.

It was questioned whether District Council would be making a further saving with one Chief Executive Officer leaving and therefore this salary was surplus. Cllr Brazil expressed his opinion with regard to what he felt was a current budget surplus and other senior posts.

It was noted that Chillington Shop/Post Office had taken delivery of recycling plastic bags from District Council and having gone over them for any symbol they were not recyclable. In Ireland they provide householders with a bin to put plastic in not create further plastic bags. District Council was looking at outsourcing their waste collection but were paying consultants to check option.

4. CO OPTION

It was AGREED to co-opt John Churton and he was provided with the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and forms for completion of the Register of Interests and asked to join the meeting.

Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting.

5. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

The applications below were received for consideration and such observations forwarded to District Council.

- 4181/17/HHO Householder application for re-submission to current approval 53/0778/15/F for new materials & finishes to the proposed garage Springlands, Torcross – No objection.
- 4197/17/HHO Householder application for erection of side extension on site of garage (to be demolished), first floor balcony, and erection of sun lounge extension to front elevation Beam Ends, Beesands – Objection. There was no objection to the extension but serious concerns raised with regard to overlooking of the neighbour and mitigation for this intrusion should be addressed.
- 4217/17/VAR Variation of a condition following grant of planning permission 1985/17/FUL to allow changes to approved plans Little Beeches, Torcross – No objection.
- 4289/17/FUL Change of use of redundant ground floor pottery and retail unit to two holiday let and launderette Gull Cottage, Torcross – No objection.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- Nothing further received.

6. NOMINATIONS

It was AGREED to nominate Cllrs Gardner and Jackson to DALC for inclusion in the draw to decide who attended the Queen's Garden Party on behalf of Devon Town and Parish Councils 2018.

7. 2018/19 PRECEPT

Figures were received from District Council with regard to current rateable housing numbers and it was AGREED that due to recent bad weather an emergency contingency for buddle/drain clearing be added and to request £39700 being £38679 precept and £1021 Government grant.

8. ENGLAND COAST PATH

A request from Coastal Access to comment with regard to improvements to public access along the South West Coast Path between Cremyll and Kingswear was received and the following suggestion AGREED to be put forward. Beesands Cellars to Torcross section was not well signed at either end thus making usage for walkers difficult.

Cllr Brazil was invited to provide his report as above and then he along with Mr and Mrs Johnston left the meeting.

9. DISTRICT COUNCIL ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The document provided by District Council for consultation was circulated to parish council and the content generally discussed and AGREED that no further points were to be added.

10. REPORTS

Councillors

- With regard to feedback on the scientific survey being carried out along the coast the channel fisheries had requested a meeting along with parish council to be held at the Stokenham Parish hall.

- Cllr Lynn had been advised of a tree that had come down on the footpath from the White House Hotel to the property along the A379 and had cut back the overhang but it needed more attention. Cllr Rogers would deal with the cutting back and tidying.
- The bungalow down at Hallsands had been knocked down and this was causing damage to the lane as highlighted within the County Councillor's report.
- It had been noted that the whale was heading back to Torcross as it had been caught in fishing gear again.
- There was a large amount of paperwork filed with regard to the Joint Local Plan hearing. The developers' papers were saying there were not enough houses being built against others challenging the need in sensitive environmental areas. The Clerk would arrange a meeting between Cllrs Spence, Cowley and local parish groups (plus any other councillors who wished to attend) to collate points groups might wish to be considered to be included by the representative attending the hearing.
- There had been a stranded dead dolphin on Torcross beach which was reported and investigation had noted that it asphyxiated on a fish.
- A small group consisting of four parish councillors and 2 village green members had planted trees in Stokenham Orchard. These trees were made available from Orchard Link grant funding.
- At the Chillington Great Hill/Millennium Wood it was noted that the Woodland Trust was proposing to carry out a clearing of the rise with heavy horses from early February. A notice advised that all were welcome to go up and watch. The Woodland Trust was also still enthusiastic with regard to putting a hard surface down to create a better access all year round into the wood.
- On Boxing day in Kellaton, being at the bottom of a valley with a stream at the bottom and a further minor valley feeding from the west, the village was a fair size catchment but with the water coming down from 3 – 4 different places it had gathered on the Lannacombe side of the crossroads and flooded a house and another conservatory and then poured out a gate down the other road and flooded a garage and wood store. The villagers had cleared up but the pipe that ran through four properties had been laid pre 1960 and County highway authority disclaimed all responsibility. These gulleys were full of rubbish and this pushed the flooding on. Gemma from the County Flood team attended along with Cllr Brazil to view and discuss the flood. The house that flooded would install floodgates but the other one would need a new door frame to start with. This had happened 4 or 5 times due to the pipes not being cleared and this point was taken up in the County Councillor's report.
- All councillors were reminded about the Parish Hall Charity Pig Race being held on March 11th for which a parish council table had been booked.
- Cllr Rogers advised that the drainage and buddle holes work within £2000 grant funds had received a large amount of work done within this money. The last bit had been a new pipe at Witherey Well. However farmers and landowners had then trimmed hedges Christmas Eve and just blocked them all again. It was also noted that from Aller Cross to Marber Cross the Footpath Officer was looking at redoing this section of footpath but needed works carried out on the highway at Marber Cross first. Cllr Rogers had hoped to include neatening works to the layby car park at Torcross out of the funding but had nothing left due to all that had required attention.
- The bridleway called Riddlefoot Lane was scoured out again and it was advised that historically the water would go through Redhills but it no longer did and this was the problem.

CLERK'S REPORT

- WPC Jane Gerrard had advised that Endurance Life had made contact to advise that their CTS South Devon event would be held on Saturday 3rd February 2018 leaving from Prawle. Endurance Life believed that they had made contingency for enough parking within Prawle but still advised that should there be bad weather the numbers were usually reduced and they would use some managed parking along the A379 Slapton Line and within Stokenham and Chillington. The email also mentioned that they would be working more closely with the parish councils and residents. No further contact had been made by James Barker with Stokenham since the meeting October 2017. Cllr Mrs Doust advised that an outcome of the Event Committee meeting was a call for a Traffic Plan but this had not been provided to parish council and it was felt community liaison should be by Endurance Life.
- A schedule of roads covered by the weed spraying had been received and District advised that they were only able to spray the kerbs and not pavement surfaces. A second spray was apparently undertaken and then the grounds maintenance team were out in some areas digging the kerbside weeds out. Whilst many areas were significantly better the pavements were still being degraded and slippery so it was questioned what benefit there was of spraying weeds adjacent to the highway but not addressing the slipping issue.
- Domain registration with Eclipse would cost £110 for two years. An attempt to tie this into the BT contract had not proved possible as it was originally applied for by Eclipse. Cllr Spence would investigate this renewal through his contacts.
- General Data Protection Regulations due to be applied 25th May 2018 was being supported by a new Data Protection Act which was still going through Parliament and subject to changes. Many town and parish clerks seem concerned on the effect of this piece of legislation on smaller councils especially with regard to who can be the Data Protection Officer. It was felt by many that it cannot be the parish clerk but challenged by the Information Commissioner that they can. On the one hand some parish clerks find this suggestion onerous with regard to being an expert and responsible for the subject whilst others believe that as the officer dealing with this information it would be sensible. The debate would be continuing for quite some time but it appeared that whilst little personal data is held by parish councils the paperwork involved in setting up and proving that a council was compliant could be onerous.
- An application to the TAP Fund was made on behalf of a History Group in Chillington along with the Chillington Hall car park entrance works by parish council. A proposed permissive path to complete a circular walk was put forward to the 2018 Community Reinvestment Fund. All invoices had been filed with South Hams District Council to draw down the 2017 TAP grant and also the funding requested for the footpath improvements from Sumerye Lane up past Millennium Wood. At present no acknowledgement had been received.
- Further updated examination documents had been added to the Joint Local Plan documents from the Planning Inspectors. The first hearing attendance for Stokenham would be on Tuesday 30th January 2018 at Plymouth. Further dates when Stokenham should attend would be held at Follaton House, Totnes.

8. FINANCE AND CHEQUES VAT RECLAIM

Ordinarily the closure of the audit process circa October – November meant that during December the VAT was reclaimed for the previous financial year. However this year a letter was received from HM Revenue and Customs advising that they were to update some of their older IT system and if the form VAT126 was used they would be sending out new identification numbers to existing customers. Therefore this claim had not been done and the identification number was awaited so as not to get lost between two systems.

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £2,237.14
Savings (1) £72,073.13
Savings (2) £4,931.31

Received: Nil

Payments in January

HMRC – Tax & NI £186.40
DCC – Pension £346.44
Wages - £1095.25
Kingsbridge Websites – Standard Hosting Package for one year £60.00
Electricity cash - £20.00
Charles Rogers – Mileage claim x 2 £52.20
Charles Rogers – 4 x cuts of permissive path Stokenham church to Stokeley Wood £144.00
Piers Spence – Chairman’s Allowance £92.75

Cheques: None.

9. NEXT MEETING

Any planning applications received that cannot await full council would be considered at a planning committee to be held on the first Thursday in January. The next full council would be on 18th January 2018. Meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.45p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 18th January 2018.