

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2018 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****T. LYNN****MRS T DAYMENT****J. CHURTON****L. COWLEY****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****J. ANSELL****MRS P. DOUST****R. JACKSON****A. GOODMAN****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****W. FLETCHER-NEAL****J. GARDNER****C. ROGERS****MRS. S. ROWLAND****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. Cllr Mrs Dayment declared a personal interest in application 0973/18/HHO.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

(a) Parish council meeting dated 15th March 2018

(b) Planning Committee meeting postponed and held 5th April 2018

were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

Anne Bowyer wished to know what progress had been made with the night landing planning application. The Chairman noted the decision date from District planning was 2nd May. He said he would write to Toby and advise a decision was expected at the end of the month and could Toby arrange for the contractors to go in during May half term..

Anne was going to let everyone in Stokenham know that the speaker for the Annual Parish open meeting was from the University Coastal Processes group but that they would only be looking at weather patterns and shingle movement and what might happen in the future. The A379 road would be discussed at the Coastal Management Plan meeting on 3rd May in Slapton Village Hall. Anne made a further request from the Stokenham Village Green Committee that if anybody knew of any event that could be held please let them know as the village green was not being used enough by the parish. This offer was to the whole parish and not just Stokenham village residents.

David Kerr as a Stokenham resident highlighted the A379 Torcross to Stretgate road and advised he had been trying to get some business rate relief as the income was down by 20-30% but businesses had incurred an 80% increase in rates. Due to this concern he wanted to ensure that as many people as possible attended the Coastal Management meeting and drop in at Slapton as Dr Sarah Wollaston MP was going to be in attendance. The Chairman agreed that it would be beneficial for residents to attend and understand the precarious nature of the shingle bank and the natural limitations of what can be done, with it and too it, whilst maintaining its environmental status. The urge for something to be done whilst urgent did not provide many obvious solutions due to the nature of the shingle bank and the amount required to realign the road on. In rough terms there was enough shingle to realign once more without a completely different approach which would mean a total rethink on how to achieve this. Slapton Line Partnership which brought together a fairly wide range of views was that there was one more chance to realign the road after which there would be no more shingle bank left. Mr Kerr believed that this was why there should be a 'proper job' done this time which would need sheet piling. The Chairman noted it was not just money but, having lived this scenario, he was aware of the technical feasibility and environmental effect and what any works would do to the coastline. Any intervention would make the next section of coast vulnerable. Therefore the Chairman welcomed Mr Kerr encouraging everyone to attend and listen to the experts and make their views known from the community.

Mr Kerr's concern was how to maximise the amount of people attending and he was asking parish council to do this. Parish Council wanted everyone to attend to be informed so they had already communicated this on their website and tried to advise everyone but they had no special means of communication better than those who were present. It was further questioned whether everyone would be advised on 3rd May what was going to be done but the Chairman noted he could not anticipate the outcome and perhaps the power of the parish council was over estimated. Perhaps as politicians would be in attendance it was easy to imagine that the world will be promised but in the cold light of day this might not be deliverable. It was more important to be there and express a choice even if it was the wrong answer.

Anne Bowyer wished to say thank you to everybody for the job they did as parish councillors and acknowledged the support given to Stokenham Village Community Association which was appreciated.

Anne Bowyer and Mr Kerr left the meeting.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil noted the council tax increases for County and District. On a positive note County did receive an extra £6.5million from central Government for road maintenance across the whole of Devon. With regard to potholes or edges of roads that were crumbling the best way for anyone to report this to County highways was online through 'Report a Problem' where the person reporting could include all the details.

With regard to the A379 road along the line he did not know much more than anyone else and would be attending the meeting at Slapton on 3rd May 2018. The last he had heard County were expecting to carry out works sometime in the autumn. He found this a frustrating delay as everything was in place to proceed. The notification of a road closure in Frogmore was because the advert had not been taken out of the Public Notice section of the newspaper. This together with the works scheduled for the bottom of Coleridge Lane flood relief would be delayed whilst Slapton Line was closed.

Cllr Brazil had spoken to the local highway officers with regard to the road down to Hallsands

through Bickerton as he acknowledged it was not a good idea to send vehicles that way due to the size of modern cars. Cllr Churton noted that the sign at the top road was alright to take traffic down as far as the farm. Cllr Brazil advised that they could not turn this route into a one way or no through road but it would be helpful if signage did not encourage people coming from Hallsands up through Bickerton. Perhaps they could have a sign to say 'Access to Bickerton' only. Cllr Lynn questioned that if repairs to Slapton Line were being left until the autumn could the authorities' recover the tarmac along the beach side of the highway before it went into the sea. At present there were volatile fumes coming off this tarmac which was a concern.

The District rates increase was also tied into toilet closures with them indicating that the parishes should take them on or they would be closed. Also there was a slight increase in car parking charges. The current big issue was rubbish collection as District was looking to outsource this as figures they had been provided with for such indicated they could not argue against this route. However he had not been able to drill down on these figures as he was advised they were commercially sensitive, so he did not think this proposal could be relied upon. The next stage of this proposal was in June and the chairman enquired if there would be any public consultation to which the response was no. The update on the Joint Local Plan was that District were hoping that if everything went to plan they hoped it would be signed off and adopted by Christmas. There would be an intermediate public report in June with six weeks consultation on amendments.

With regard to the property at Seagulls Cllr Brazil felt that District enforcement had other more pressing issues to be considered first. Cllr Lynn considered that the ground levels had been altered and the property pushed up and the chairman suggested this should be advised to building regulations.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 0942/18/FUL Erection of timber frame building Land at SX801406 adjacent to Moyson, Stokenham – Objection. The proposed timber frame building was felt to create more storage than required to work this land, as planted, adequately and would be situated unchecked in an isolated area. This was a prominent rural setting for this building and was noted to have been the subject of previous reports raising concern with regard to the secluded siting of a caravan indicating a gradual move to use the field for dwelling. This site had been planted with several hundred trees of various species usually associated with amenity woodland: rowan (*Sorbus acuparia*); willow (*Salix* spp.); ash (*Fraxinus* spp.); hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.); oak (*Quercus* spp.); and birch (*Betula* spp.) The trees had no value as a crop: even those whose timber might have a commercial application, such as the oaks, had a twisted, dwarfing habit due to the extreme exposure of the site, making them useless as lumber..

Cllr Mrs Dayment left the meeting whilst the following application was considered.

- 0973/18/HHO Householder application for proposed rear extension to dwelling and new decking 18 Longbrook, Chillington – No objection but due to the past history drainage issues in this area and due to the property sitting next to the brook/river that flows down to the flood plain in Chillington the Flood Team should consider SUDS.
- 0980/18/HHO Householder application for alterations and extension to dwelling Bay House, Torcross – No objection.
- 1053/18/FUL Replacement kitchen extract fan and infill single storey extension Church House Inn, Stokenham – No objection.

5. DISTRICT CAR PARKS ALONG A379 TORCROSS TO SLAPTON

The proposals put forward by District Council for parking charges to cover day and night at Torcross and other car parks along the line were tabled and it was AGREED that whilst parish council regretted the need for the increase they understood the need for income to enhance this area.

6. PLAYING FIELD

The works proposed to be carried out around this area were reviewed and it was AGREED as follows:

- (a) New goal posts – This was contingent on the drainage being undertaken as the posts needed to be concreted in.
- (b) Main gate post broken on driveway down to hall and gate hanging open – To be repaired when the surface and drainage works were completed.
- (c) Re surfacing of entrance to the car park surface – Awaiting drainage works
- (d) Drainage plans to the playingfield area – Nothing received as yet.
- (e) Reports checking the play area equipment – Up to date.

Once parish council heard from John Grimes they would put together a schedule of dates when works would be carried out and completed.

7. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Draft documentation had been compiled to be compliant with the new regulations and before implementing comments, additions or deletions were invited from parish council in order that consideration could be given to the requirements to comply. It was AGREED

- (a) Parish Clerk to be the Data Protection Officer.
- (b) Parish Council to be the Data Controller.
- (c) All groups would be contacted to ensure that parish council could continue to keep their information for contact. Stokenham did not have allotments, cemeteries etc so their retention was basically community groups. Future consideration needed to be given to information provided on complaints or concerns as to how this was shared as the person must be informed. This could probably be covered by advising people to look at parish council website for the privacy policies et al.

8. OPEN SPACES SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN

It was AGREED to approve and adopt this plan.

9. REPORTS

Cllr Goodman – Had a concern with regard to how highways used the edger and loaded the spoil into a trailer and tipped this on a verge. At Mattiscombe Cross to Widewell there were two grass verges that now had spoil on which had turned into muddy banks and this would spill back onto the road filling the ditches. This happened at Widdicombe last year and Mattiscombe this year. It was not tidy and although solved a short term problem it created more. Spoil should be on the top of hedges or taken away where it could not run into ditches and across the road.

Cllr Lynn – Noted there was no public bin at Hallsands as yet and they needed one now due to the walkers and visitors to the area.

Cllr Churton – Noted a property at Hallsands on which he had raised some issues and had a dialogue with South West Water and would be arranging a meeting as this had not been resolved as yet. He explained his concerns and wanted to put together something to address the public parking and signage since a letter received from Start View (Hallsands) Management Company Ltd. The Chairman noted that many of these things were civil issues that needed to be agreed

between landowners like the land for location of a public toilet. He had ascertained that Start Bay Management Company were a dormant company with limited funds.

The Chairman suggested that Hallsands residents should get together and tackle what they wanted to achieve and who would speak for them. Cllr Lynn noted that they might be able to obtain a grant from RNLI for the lifebuoy and that the fisheries funding was trying to get Hallsands as a port. Cllr Churton advised that since the centenary celebration there had been much more community cohesion and there was a regular newsletter delivered to Muckwell, Hallsands and Bickerton residents called Hamlets Herald.

Cllr Ansell – Advised that all the gullies had been cleared with the gully sucker and the main problem was just one drain. A resident also had special arrangements for removing debris from flood water which was approved by the Highway Officer.

Cllr Mrs Doust - Noted that many residents were using the shuttle bus but struggling with the lack of timetables and the buses not connecting with the main bus in Kingsbridge. If it was just to be a few weeks most would acknowledge the problem but if this was long term it should tie in/link with the Kingsbridge to Plymouth plus have a set timetable. The Stagecoach shuttle bus from Kingsbridge to Torcross was not shuttling to its stated times.

Cllr Jackson – Chillington Community Association were looking for volunteers to help out at the summer event and calling for further stalls.

Cllr Rogers was not present but had advised that County Footpaths had agreed that the area along Sumerye Lane required further works to install a couple more buddle holes to drain into the adjacent land and stop the ponding where the estate path meets this footpath. Cllr Rogers advised that he would source some planings and deal with the current erosion dip in the short term.

Also works had been carried out to divert the cliff path up over from Torcross and improve the new section created at Beesands after the path was washed away by the sea. Another project could be to carry out works to the path from Marber Cross but this would not be done this year as they required permission from the adjacent landowner to put some drainage in to stop the flooding and thus erosion. An approach had been made to the landowner adjacent to Riddlefoot Lane and at first it appeared they would allow the water to continue to drain on their property but had removed this permission since.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Residents of Green Park Way currently cut the large swathe of verge/open space. In view of health problems they were unable to continue to transport the grass clippings to the tip and had requested two additional brown bins. It was noted that District would not provide further brown bins. The expert advice was that cuts done more frequently without collection and allowing the clippings to mulch into the ground would mean they would not have to take anything away.

10. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £1496.27

Savings (1) £88,567.31

Savings (2) £208.71

Received: 1st Precept 2018/18 £20360.50

Payments in April

HMRC – Tax & NI £174.72

DCC – Pension £346.44

Wages - £1103.89

DALC – Annual Subs £464.38

R. Sanders – Mixed waste Torcross storm £57.60

Play Inspection – Outdoor Annual Inspection £78.00

South West Site Engineering Ltd – Chillington field topographical survey £360.00

Greenspace – Tanpits grass and Orchard Way permissive path tree reduction £90.00

Orchard Link – Hire of Apple Press £45.00

Cheques: None

11. NEXT MEETING

Any planning applications received that could not await full council would be considered at a planning committee to be held on the first Thursday in May. The next full council would be the Annual Meeting on 17th May 2018. Meetings commenced at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.30 p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 17th May 2018.