

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 21ST MARCH 2019 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****T. LYNN****MRS. S. ROWLAND****L. COWLEY****J. GARDNER****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****MRS P. DOUST****A. GOODMAN****J. ANSELL****W. FLETCHER-NEAL****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****J. CHURTON****MRS G. ADDISON****C. ROGERS****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 Lynn declared an interest in The Forge planning application being his cousin.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the:

(a) Parish council meeting dated 21st February 2019

(b) Planning Committee meeting none held March 2019

were tabled and after consideration approved and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

Anne Bowyer attended to update parish council on proposed play equipment on the Stokenham village green. She had considered various equipment brochures with a young mother from the village and decided on suitable apparatus. Firstly the Stokenham Village Community Association was going to raise the £3000 needed and they were nearly there. One reason for this figure was that there was free fitting on the equipment for orders over £3000. They then wanted to move to do a phase 2 with further fund raising for apparatus. There would be a quiz night the next Saturday towards funds and the young mum involved had also suggested holding a children's tea party and had lots of ideas towards further fund raising. Anne had also been promised a further bingo in September held by another group with funds towards this project. She enquired if Apple Day would be held again this year and the Chairman said yes certainly and all agreed parish council was happy to put these proceeds towards this equipment. The date for Apple Day would be 19th October 2019. At present no alcohol licence would be applied for unless the group decided differently at a later date. A Village Green Committee member advised that the landowner had not given permission for the installation of the play equipment but Anne advised

that she and Martin Nuttall-Smith met with Florence and Reg Rew the previous Sunday and they said there would be no problem. Cllr Mrs Doust had emailed the landowner to obtain permission in writing. Insurance of the play equipment was discussed and as parish council did not own the equipment nor had ownership or leased the land it would be easier if the Village Green Committee added this to their insurance of the area. If the Village Green Committee obtained a quote for play equipment parish council could assist. Those involved needed a meeting to decide the next steps. *Anne Bowyer left the meeting.*

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil advised he had been to a specially held District Council meeting wherein the Joint Local Plan was adopted. Basically, with the plan, the AONB had been given far more protection which was why the Carehouse Cross allocated site was removed. For villages within the AONB this was very good news as any speculative attempts to take advantage of this beautiful area would find it hard. Exception sites with market value provided within them could be allowed but these market value properties would be used to cross subsidise provision of affordable housing. Unfortunately for Chillington and Green Park Way everything that upper side of the village was not in the AONB. The Green Park Way current application was currently at Reserved Matters. There were still things within the Joint Local Plan he did not agree with, not least the total number of houses stated needing to be built as they seemed to have made the number up. Although it was purportedly evidence based he had not seen any and Campaign to Protect Rural England stated the figure was 20,000 off which the Chairman acknowledged parish council were aware of. The document was however a vast improvement on the original JLP which had places such as Torcross and Beesands allocated with 10 houses each.

The Chairman asked what was happening with regard to Green Park Way. County Highways had objected and in Cllr Brazil's experience if they objected so would District Planning. Developers would often find a way around such objections so he was waiting to hear. Other concerns in the application were the soakaways and overbearing aspect on houses 47 and 48 in Green Park Way. For the overbearing the developers were talking about a single bungalow instead. That said they might lower the number of affordable houses offered due to this change. Drainage was in the lap of experts as if they said they were content planning could not refuse. Next planning committee was about 2 weeks away and he had not heard anything so they must still be discussing.

Sophie Hosking was now South Hams District CEO shared with West Devon and Cllr Brazil felt it had never really worked having two directors. On the treasury strategy the committee had looked at it but he was still nervous about the money being borrowed to put into large schemes. In his view there was not the in house expertise to handle this so he worried. He was not privy to some of the conversations in meetings when others said it would be fine and there were no details. In the end it was tax payers' money and the person dealing with this was now working for South Hams District one day a week.

At County the monies for additional works on roads in the Kingsbridge division had filtered down since the budget announcement so any areas that needed a quick spruce up councillors should let him know. He acknowledged the difficulty on the A379 whilst it was closed at Frogmore but the flood works had been necessary and all was finished. There was a real funding crisis as far as schools were concerned. He had been forwarded a copy of a letter, by a parent, sent in an unprecedented initiative to make parents aware of the fund squeeze. Exmouth School, it was noted, had sent a letter to parents asking for £15 per pupil plus £5 extra for each additional child of the family at school. Kingsbridge Community College had closed down languages and were only teaching French. Cllr Brazil brought this up at the County Children's Scrutiny to ask that a

letter was written to Government to say they must at least meet Head Teachers to understand this problem.

The Clerk noted the earlier report about additional highway funding and highlighted a project suggested by Cllr Rogers to raise a section of road surface at Coleridge to alleviate pooling of water and flooding.

Cllr Brazil noted that Dunstone Cross was a mess and advised there were problems in dealing with this as the owner of the adjacent land was abroad. County was struggling to get things sorted out. At Coombe Meadows a forty foot mobile home had been installed to take up the whole of a garden. In planning they had used a loophole as it was still classed as a caravan so not development. It was believed there was a covenant on the estate stating no caravans but this would require a civil action.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 0204/19/FUL Construction of slurry store Coleridge Farm Cottage, Coleridge Lane, Chillington – No objection. Parish Council understood the requirements of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) but recommended that best practice was followed in such a way that any nuisance from odour for neighbours be minimised and consideration be given to its elevated position. It would be preferable if this facility was a covered concrete ring with lid to match another facility that was currently in place. Historically there had been reports of significant unpleasant odour experienced around Chillington which was why parish council encouraged best practice measures adjacent to this AONB and environmentally sensitive area.
- 0701/19/FUL Replacement of existing rear extension and detached garage and modification of existing car port The Old Library, Stokenham – No objection.

Cllr Brazil arrived and gave his report as recorded above staying to take part in item 6 below.

- 0702/19/LBC Listed building consent for replacements and alterations The Old Library, Stokenham – No objection.
- 0732/19/FUL Provision of a storage building, Molescombe Farm, Chillington – No objection.
- 0735/19/HHO Householder application for alterations to dwelling, including new windows, new replacement front door, new gutters and down pipes, moving the door position to the shower room to allow room to be reconfigured Forge Cottage, Stokenham – No objection.
- 0736/19/LBC Listed Building Consent application for alterations to dwelling, including new windows, new replacement front door, new gutters and down pipes, moving the door position to the shower room to allow room to be reconfigured Forge Cottage, Stokenham – No objection.
- DCC/4113/2019 Retention of the existing modular classroom block (02) for 15 years at Stokenham County Primary School, Stokenham – No objection.

APPEAL

- 2380/17/FUL Appeal reference: APP/K1128/W/19/3220491 Proposal: Erection of 4 detached dwellings, garages, access road and landscaping Land adjacent to the Old Abattoir, Torcross, TQ7 2TH Appellants name: Mrs B Hannaford Appeal start date: 13 March 2019. Stokenham Parish Council reiterated its objection to this proposal. The planned access was via Tor Church Road, a narrow country lane with high walls and

hedges and many blind bends. Already well used by pedestrians and cyclists for amenity purposes, the lane now formed part of the re-routed South West Coast path and as such was frequented by thousands of walkers every year. The extra traffic generated by the development would compromise the safety of walkers, and materially increase the risk of a serious accident occurring.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing further received.

5. INTERNET PROVISION AT PARISH HALL

An outline of what the newly installed SCOF office would require was given with a suggestion that parish council might benefit from sharing costs in order to obtain internet access. It was felt that a 4G modem could afford far better broadband without the need for a BT line.

This was noted and AGREED that this would be considered when parish council internet provision was required.

6. DIVERSIONS OFF A379

Problems encountered when roadworks or accidents rendered the A379 impassable were put forward and proposals for action to be taken were considered. Diversions had to be signed around Kingsbridge and Totnes Cross and any local use of roads was down to residents and the use of common sense. A one way system does not work for a short period as some would always disagree or abuse it.

It was AGREED that the most expedient way to deal with main road works was

- (a) for the closure to be as short as possible
- (b) an early announcement made to enable arrangements to be made and local buy in and
- (c) for the work to be done when tourists were not around.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting having brought this one item forward after his report was given.

7. PARISH ELECTIONS

It was AGREED that Parish Council;

- (a) wished polling cards to be printed for residents for the Parish Election
- (b) would raise awareness encouraging residents to stand for election to the parish council by Cllr Spence creating an informative poster to be placed in areas such as Stokeley Farm Shop, Chillington Post Office, the website and other parish locations.

8. STOKENHAM CHURCHYARD

Questions put forward by Stokenham PCC with regarding to burial provision for the whole parish were considered and discussed at length.

It was AGREED to respond

- (a) that parish council, if offered, would pass the burden of a closed churchyard to District Council as raising the parish precept would be beyond acceptable expenditure for the community due to the cost of maintenance of boundaries surrounding the cemetery.
- (b) that the extension of burial land offered came with many costly burdens to obtain planning permission and was not of a size to meet the criteria of the Ministry of Health Memorandum of 1926 to warrant such community expenditure for the amount of years of burial spaces achieved with an average of 65 – 85 years being recommended.
- (c) if necessary parish council would consider an alternative area for provision but would not seek to consecrate any section within it.

9. NOTICEBOARDS

Replacement of noticeboards at the Parish Hall was discussed and it was AGREED to discuss replacements with the Parish Hall Committee and purchase matching ones.

10. REPORTS

- Cllr Lynn – Hallsands had been tidied again and the boulders put back in place. The Seaweed Farm proposal was ongoing but the MMO had suggested a move to the trawler zone just off Torcross. It was felt that there was too much paperwork to sit half and half in the lower zone. The Chairman noted this was a trial which could go ahead but asked who was actually evaluating the results of a trial to know that requirements were met. This was not known.
- Cllr Gardner – Noted the A379 was closed again at West Charleton for urgent road works.
- Cllr Spence – Advised he had attended the Tree Wardens meeting held two weeks ago. This related to Ash Die Back as in the South Hams it would be significant. It was such a sudden infection of ash trees with a fungus that led to the death of tree. Takeover of a tree was very quick and led to the destruction of the cellulose within the tree so it dried out and cracked, almost exploding, so was a high risk for professionals dealing with them. If more than 50% of the tree was infected experts would not go up them to dismantle. The loss would be invariably sad but of more importance was that there were lots of these trees along the highways (with over 100,000 trees in Devon). This posed a serious risk to roads, with road closures, potential accidents and a vast majority of trees were situated in privately owned land. The aim of this initiative was to alert landowners, who had large ash trees within their land set close to highways, of their legal responsibility. The Chairman suggested that all councillors put this news about and asked everyone to input into a database all known large ashes by reporting this to the record keepers. It was a “known unknown” problem with lots of trees out there but where were they! In mid Devon it was already in in 50% of ash plantations and he had seen his first ones last summer within Chillington woodland. It was characterised by blackened tips at the wrong time of year and cracking around the base of the tree. He offered to circulate an email to everyone with further details and requested them to keep vigilant. He was asked if there was any restriction on disposal of the wood but there was not. Nothing could be done to stop the onward spread of this disease as it moved along at 2 – 3 metres above ground borne on the wind and could infect miles away.
- Cllr Ansell – Noted that this year the hedges at Simla had been cut back albeit with perhaps a bit too much clearance.
- Cllr Mrs Doust – Was involved with the Stokenham Village Green play equipment project and discussions were ongoing.

CLERK’S REPORT

- Nomination forms, to stand as parish councillors, had been received and must be completed and delivered by hand, for checking, by 4p.m. 3rd April. Some present had taken forms.
- District had been contacted and the quotes, to date, submitted with regard to land drainage at Chillington playing field. A meeting would be set up with the preferred contractor to discuss the works and then a decision could be made on the preferable quotation option. Once this was provided to District they would liaise with the Ward Member and if approval was given issue a grant letter.
- A pre renewal letter had been received with regard to council insurance due on 1st June 2019. If possible in the interim further quotes would be obtained.
- Event Hire Solutions had asked if a quotation for provision of a Portaloo was required for Hallsands this holiday season. Should further quotes be obtained or continue with this company as preferred provider.

- Torcross View Point (Butterfly Field) had been cleared by District Council maintenance under the direction of Rob Sekula and Robin Rose-Price had sent his thanks for this work along with his appreciation for the hedge entrance cut by Cllr Goodman.
- The clerk advised she would look into alternative play equipment inspection through another company as renewal for this service with the current provider was due soon.
- The Parish Hall had works had been carried out and invoices to the order of £2526.62 provided. Further invoices were expected before the end of the financial year and therefore this grant would be paid over by the end of March, once the invoices were provided.
- Road Closure notification for 12th – 14th June 2019 for Torcross Service Roads off A379 outside 17 At the Beach. All present felt this would not affect the main A379.

11. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided, and the below transactions were approved:

Current £1709.17

Savings (1) £88,101.48

Received: Nil

Payments in January

HMRC – Tax and NI £177.92

DCC – Pension £348.66

Wages – March £1108.90

Tax Rebate – March 60pence

Charles Rogers Building Contractor – Permissive path edge works and Highway drains £2976.

Morti Sport and Play Ltd – Helmers Play Area maintenance £2120.40

R. Carter Construction – Gas Tank installation excavation £1638.00

Hawthorns Accounting Sers Ltd – Feb and March payroll £90.00

British Tel – Council phone and broadband £213.60

KCOM – Bi Annual Domain Registration (.gov.uk) Jan 2019 – Jan 2021 £110.00

Roger Doust & Co. – Bus shelter removal at Kellaton and maintenance of remainder £1750.00

Stokenham Parish Hall Committee – District Com Reinv Grant final payment £1996.03

Cheques: None

12. NEXT MEETING

A planning committee would be held on the first Thursday in April if plans that could not await full council were received. The next full council would be on 18th April 2019. Meetings commence at 7.30p.m. in the Wesley Smith Room at Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.40p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 18th April 2019.