

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING
HELD 15TH OCTOBER 2020**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****P. SPENCE (Chairman)****MRS P. DOUST****J. ANSELL****MISS G. ADDISON****D. COLLIVER****G. WEBBER (joined the meeting once co-opted on)****J. BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****C. ROGERS****A. GOODMAN****A. GHADIALI****R. PAIN****L. COWLEY****APOLOGIES:****T. LYNN****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****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 Rogers declared an interest in the Public Access agenda item but as he had more up to date information as the County contractor he would impart this and leave whilst a decision was made.

2. MINUTES

The:

- (a) Minutes of full council meeting held 17th September 2020 were agreed ready for signature by the Chairman.
- (b) No delegated Planning responses or payments made during October 2020.

3. OPEN FORUM

Two members of the public were present Graham Webber and Lizzy Mooney but neither wished to speak so this was dispensed with.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil advised that District Council had forwarded a scathing response to the Planning White Paper. This proposal could double the amount of houses required and was taking away the chance of local, specific sites, comments. The community would only be involved in general comments on design. Also Government intended to raise the threshold at which developers had to provide affordable housing. Such might work elsewhere but it would not down in this region. He was asked to send a copy of the District planning response.

With regard to the change of day for rubbish collection across the parish he asked whether there had there been any feedback. It was said that Kernborough had problems and in Kellaton there was a slight hiccup but no problem. Dunstone did not receive a collection the week before but on contacting District they said they did. Muckwell had a collection Tuesday as they had been missed. Cotmore had the same problems as those outlying areas. Cllr Brazil asked to be informed

at the same time if reports go in but are not dealt with and he would follow up. The new recycling regime was coming in after Spring so that would be a new issue but at least it would improve the amount of recycling.

He had not heard anything more about changes to parking permits in Torcross other than the District member saying he was listening.

County was a lead partner for Covid but South Hams still had a very low Covid count but it was rising and was more now than in the first stage. The rate was still low so track and trace was under control.

He had a meeting regarding Slapton Line, motor homes and a lack of car parking and he along with Dist Cllr Richard Foss needed to do something about this. The Hannafords site could be an investment and Stokeley Farm Shop might be somewhere for parking provision and they were both looking for viable options.

At Beesands District was trying to get the car park extended but there was the law about public spaces and not creating a car park but things needed to change to address usage. The newly installed parking signs were too much and Cllr Brazil felt that planning needed to be considered.

There was further money for potholes and general maintenance of highways but he must get applications to the highway officer and consider priority. It was noted that many repairs from the previous year failed and could this be changed. The response was no as all these bits needed a review as there might be underlying factors but works were done and the weather caused more problems. A question was raised about works that were meant to be done before Covid and why they had not been completed if marked. The response was that if they were not done and the white lines had disappeared this needed to be questioned.

Cllr Miss Addison noted the recent Green Park Way refusal and questioned Appeal. No inspector had actually been allocated so the two applications may be rolled up into one Appeal. This last application was a better layout but for drainage probably was worse so a hybrid might arrive. He felt that this site was months away from a decision but at least any drainage consideration would be looked at by an inspector.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting.

4. CO OPTION

The application by Graham Webber for co-option was considered and it was AGREED and the Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interests would be forwarded to him to complete and return.

5. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 3018/20/FUL Provision of an agricultural storage building Land at SX 802 432, Old Quarry Farm, Stokenham – Response 5th November – This proposal had good access and with farmers needing more modern buildings access was important. This was a standard farm building and the applicant was an active farmer in the area but it was requested that a condition be included to restrict this building to agricultural use in perpetuity.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- 3250/20/TCA T1: Cherry - Pollard to 2m from ground level. T7: Horse Chestnut - Crown height reduction by 2m, lateral reduction by 2m on East, South and West sides. T13: Ash -

Crown height reduction by 2m, lateral reduction by 2m on South, West and North sides. T2: Broad leaved deciduous - Lateral reduction by 1m on West and East sides. T3: Cherry- Lateral reduction by 2m on East side and 1m on West side. T4: Broad leaved deciduous - Crown height reduction by 1m, lateral reduction by 1m on all sides. G1: Sycamore x 6 - Pollard to 4m from ground level. Holly x 1 multi stemmed - Crown height reduction by 4m. Pear Tree Cottage, Stokenham – Received on the day of the meeting for response by 5th November so Tree Warden would consider for a response which would then be minuted in these Minutes and emailed to all council. Although the list of work proposed seems at first sight quite extensive, it is not out of proportion to the situation and the site. Some 20 trees were planted in the garden when it was landscaped c. 25 years ago; it appears in retrospect that due regard may not have been paid in every instance to the spacing required to accommodate the fully grown trees. Accordingly there are now several instances of overcrowding, which the proposed work height seeks to address. It was noted that the row of sycamore proposed for pollarding on the northern boundary is very well used by nesting birds. I would suggest that the pollarding be set above the height of the highest nest in the row (the nests are clearly visible from the service lane/footpath at the southern boundary of Kiln Lane), otherwise no objection.

6. CONSULTATIONS

The following consultations were AGREED as follows:

- (a) Changes to the Current Planning System – ratified as already responded.
- (b) Planning White Paper – Response 29th October – Comments received were agreed and would be forwarded in response to the consultation.

Cllr Goodman rejoined after difficulties with internet access and Cllr Brazil also joined at this point having been at other parish council meetings and gave his report as above.

7. CHILLINGTON PLAYING FIELD

The report from the site visit carried out by Cllrs. Pain, Miss Addison and Rogers was circulated and after discussion it was AGREED that the actions required were as follows;

Cllr Ansell advised he had visited and reviewed the roadside hedge and it did not need to be further laid as yet. It could be trimmed and perhaps a bit taken off along the top to tidy it up. The other side was similar but needed tidying and perhaps an alder needed clipping. Access visibility from the gate could do with cutting back and an ash removed.

Quotes would be sought for replacement bins, benches and fencing along with repair of the picnic table and maintenance gate replacement. Quotes also for electrics for low level lighting in the car park.

Cllr Miss Addison had spoken to the Chillington Association with regard to moving their storage unit forward to line up with the side of the building. Also to remove the gas bottle cage and cap off and repair the area around the table tennis table. She was awaiting a response and would also ask about payment for the fence.

Cllr Rogers had reviewed the drainage headwall and advised that the outlet flap was covered in mud but underneath it was running out fine so all worked well.

8. PUBLIC ACCESS

The proposed works by County Footpaths on Bridleway 39 Marber to Aller Cross and Owl Lane, Beeson were advised to the Clerk and the expected cost for both was in the region of £6000. In order for these works to go ahead it was AGREED that parish council were prepared to contribute up to £600.

Cllr Rogers advised that prior to consideration of these projects by the County Officer he had been up to Marber/Aller Cross with a digger and taken mud away to prove the drains were functioning.

9. WEBSITE

Following the accessibility report works were required to provide a Government compliant website and it was advised whilst the website was 75% compliant due to the frequent use of posters from other organisations elements of that text was out of context. Cllr Spence had wrestled with the report to consider whether to invest more money to make the current website compliant with works by the designer for changes to code. The website was in fact 5.5 years old up and running since March 2015 so was different software which was complex to change and parish council needed a more open accessible standard like WordPress.

It was AGREED to obtain quotations to further consider.

10. PAVEMENT PARKING

The consultation document in relation to changes to the Highway Code regarding access to pavements for wheelchairs, prams and the blind it was AGREED that the options suggested would not assist because they would need to be enforced by the police or a council with a fine or some other action so parish council could not see this happening. This was more an urban element solution and the options in the paper were not helpful as rural dilemmas were probably due to the width of roads. More important were planning decisions and availability of space for cars as there was often a knock on effect of vehicles from adjacent developments seeking parking.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND CLERK

- Cllr Pain- Asked what was happening with regard to the site at Dunston Cross and felt this needed to be put to Dist Cllr Brazil.
- Cllr Spence – Advised that people brought apples for the Apple Press and having donated them did not take as much apple juice away. What remained was removed, pasteurised and given out around the community.
- Cllr Colliver – Asked why the Stokenham Church bells were no longer being rung. This was a question for the church but probably due to distancing in the bell tower.

Cllr Webber lost IT connection and left the meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT

- A meeting with Cllrs Spence, Miss Addison, Ghadiali, Rogers and the Clerk with Lee Dennison on behalf of Slapton Field Centre. General annual maintenance on the permissive path route along the edge of the ley was discussed. There were many ash trees marked up by County for removal due to ash die back and these works would be carried out by the Field Centre contractor before Christmas. Therefore it was agreed to wait before doing anything further with regard to vegetation, until the effect of this loss of trees could be seen.
- An email received from South Hams District Council officer Emma Widdicombe regarding changes to car park charges at Torcross was forwarded to all parish councillors in order that they could offer comments within this meeting to meet the 30th October response deadline. Parish Council did not raise any objection to this proposal.
- An email had advised that there had been 4 or 5 accidents because people had exited the Torcross car park by the vehicular entrance and tried to traverse down the sea defence slope and slipped. This has been raised with District as a health and safety issue due to people perhaps not seeing the crossing by the toilets or because there was no barrier. District had approached County to pass to their health and safety department but it was believed they had passed this back to District for better signage within the car park.

- The renovation works to the tank area appeared to have stalled and there was no update on the mosaic repairs for the friendship memorial.
- A resident had reported a wasps' nest in the hedge opposite Holbrook houses. It did have 8 to 10 wasps visibly going in and out and was just above ground level within the hedge. As winter approached the wasps would not survive so it was felt that no action should be taken at this point.
- If Stokenham Church held a Remembrance Sunday service Cllr Mrs Doust would attend and otherwise would officiate however it was felt respectful with regard to laying the parish wreath.

The Chairman thanked Lizzy Mooney for sitting through the whole meeting to understand what it entailed. Cllr Ghadiali mentioned that there were a lot more planning applications coming to Torcross and he felt that Lizzy was well placed to input on development proposals. There needed to be someone to speak on these things and her joining would give a gender balance to the council.

12. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances for 13th October were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £217.57

Savings £113,069.31

Received: None

Payments:

HMRC October – Tax & NI £282.30

Wages October – £1158.63

DCC October – Pension £429.89

P. Spence – Annual Zoom subscription - £143.88

Cheques: None

13. NEXT MEETING

The next parish council meeting would be held online on 19th November, subject to isolation restrictions for Covid 19, unless a member of the public requested the opportunity to speak when they would be accommodated at the online meeting or an alternative would be set up so that all parish councillors and public could discuss.

Meeting finished; 8.50p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 19th November 2020.