

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2024 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:****GAIL ADDISON****PAULA DOUST****KIM GREENING****TIM LYNN****SUE PROFFITT****CHARLES ROGERS****JONATHAN ANSELL****ADRIAN GOODMAN****CHRIS HART****RICHARD PAIN****LIZ ROBINSON****PIERS SPENCE (Chairman)****Also in attendance:****Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon****APOLOGIES:****COUNCILLORS:****JULIAN BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)****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 a personal interest being a relative of the applicants for 2898/24/CLP.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of full council meeting dated 19th September 2024 were considered and the wording changed to ‘if the bar was removed so the poles were left as the bolts were secure.’ at the end of the clerk’s first report item before being approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

No members of the public were present.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil was unable to attend so sent the following report.

A follow up meeting had been held with Caroline Voaden MP in respect of the Slapton Line. He and another District Councillor both impressed the urgency of a new adaptation manager to be recruited to post. As soon as this happened, a new Slapton Line Partnership meeting would be called. In the meantime, Caroline Voaden had written to the minister with a request for funding on various adaptation projects and money to help with the planning application. Caroline Voaden was then expected to write to parish councils with an update.

The Devolution deal had been signed although Cllr Brazil awaited the outcome and did not have much faith in it. Those involved were in the process of setting up the Combined Authority (with Torbay.) Moves were ongoing to persuade the County to spend its additional income from

second home Council tax on housing. All the districts in Devon had ringfenced their extra money for housing and were keen for County to follow suit.

District was looking to introduce a two-tier car parking charge scheme. In short visitors would pay more whilst residents would have charges frozen for this coming financial year. South Hams District had a revenue shortfall in both waste collection and leisure centre provision so this was one avenue to fix such.

Cllr Rogers arrived at the meeting.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

The following matters were considered and responded to during August recess.

Cllr Lynn left the meeting whilst the following application was considered.

- 2898/24/CLP Certificate of lawfulness for proposed outdoor swimming pool alongside associated amenities, such as garden room, pool house, plant store, pergola and decking Start View, Beesands – It was noted that parish council had already sent an email raising concern that this CLP had been submitted following the applicants' removal of the swimming pool from a previous planning application in order for that earlier application to be granted approval.
- 3165/24/ARC Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Roofing Specification), 5 (Eaves & Verges), 12 (Hard/Soft Landscape Scheme) and 16 (DEV32) of planning consent 3447/21/FUL Forge Cottage, Chillington – An overview of the concerns raised with District planning enforcement noted the window boards had been removed exposing the area occupied by bats when a European Protected Species Licence was required before any works commenced. District had explained that Spanish Slate was an acceptable substitute material although some felt that a better local replacement could be sought but, obviously, not at a comparable cost. The DEV 32 for this application had been scantily completed and a concern raised was that too much insulation could in turn make the walls crumble. The reference stating materials used would lessen the impact to bats was felt to be worrying when nothing toxic should be used, as per the original permission ecology report. Notably this time of year was wrong for any works to commence due to bats nesting and it should be a condition to ensure that going forward works could only be carried out when the bats would not be disturbed. Should the schedule overrun then works should stop to allow bats access and moving on time. Any repointing of stone should be lime. A concrete trench was mentioned being installed between the parking area and road which raised concern for safety of cyclists.
- 3197/24/HHO Householder application for installation of additional rooflight & replacement of windows & doors Wheelwrights, 6 Coleridge Barns, Chillington – Response 14th November – Parish council noted the inclusion of a rooflight and whilst understanding the replacement requirements would like to see the same frame detail used as 10 Coleridge Barns as permitted by 1252/23/HHO.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- APPEAL - Alleged Unauthorised Widening of Access and removal of Hedgerow land at Coleridge Farm, Chillington, TQ7 2JG The enforcement notice was issued for the following reasons:
Without planning permission, the widening of the farm access and the construction of a cattlegrid, gate and concrete hardstanding on the Land.
The appellant has appealed against the notice on the following grounds:
(a) That planning permission should be granted for what is alleged in the notice.
(b) That the breach of control alleged in the enforcement notice has not occurred as a matter of fact.
(f) The steps required to comply with the requirements of the notice are excessive, and

lesser steps would overcome the objections.

The appeal would be determined based on Written representation – Response 20th November.

Parish Council acknowledged the planning enforcement comments but were concerned that this planning consideration needed to heed the Health and Safety aspect and not just engineering and structure. The installation of what was basically a scaffold bar painted yellow strung across the road with no prior warning signs or lights was felt to be a death trap in the waiting. Parish Council understands that it is an offence to block a public highway without lawful authority, which is precisely what happens when the barrier is in use. With cattle wandering up gradually motorists are not aware when they can proceed or enter. What needs to be considered is whether this closure of the public highway is safe or desirable, and who would be liable if cattle or cars are damaged as a result of these unauthorized works. Parish Council request a site visit and input from highways planning regarding diverting traffic, signage and safety.

5. CO OPTION

No applications had been received so this was dispensed with.

6. CHILLINGTON AIR AMBULANCE LANDING LIGHTS

The report that a lighting unit had failed had been deferred from the previous meeting. It was AGREED that both flood lights required renewing and that MAT Electrics would be asked to install at £690.65.

7. COMMUNITY WELLBEING

A report on the distribution of defibrillators across the parish was received and the following AGREED;

- (a) Any gaps in provision across Stokenham Parish – NOTED covered at present.
- (b) Training available and raising awareness within the community – NOTED.
- (c) Providing information so that groups installing these facilities factor in ongoing maintenance – AGREED to advise those who wish to install should provide for such.
- (d) What grant funding could be in place and guidelines for application, if funding provided. – AGREED to ringfence £500 p.a. to assist groups with the cost of replacing pads and batteries when required.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Greening for her comprehensive report and requested that a column be added showing the battery installation date at each facility, in order that the timing of future replacements could be anticipated and assessed.

8. SOUTH HAMS WAY

A proposal by the South Hams Ramblers had been circulated and it was discussed whether:

- (a) to support their project to create a 100-mile route circumnavigating the South Hams – AGREED as it was felt this would be popular following an inland as well as coastal route around the South Hams. Some councillors felt that additional signage was unnecessary on routes that were already well signposted, however the majority view was that uniform signage along the entire length of the route was essential for ease of route finding. The principal concern was to ensure that any signage was well designed, durable, and did not detract from the landscape beauty of this special area.
- (b) to support addition of their logo to current footpath/bridleway route signs – AGREED support, on condition that the waymarks should be easily recognised but also well designed and of high-quality manufacture. A 100-150mm roundel made of powder-coated

stainless steel, bearing a distinctive logo and affixed with stainless steel screws was felt to be the sort of thing that would perfectly fit the bill.

(c) to provide funding to assist their goal – DECIDED no parish funding required at this stage.

9. LITHIUM BATTERY CAMPAIGN

Following an update it was AGREED to write further to Baroness Jones MP urging her to support Lord Redesdale's Bill or include this proposal within the Government's own Bill.

10. APPLE PRESS

The metal press had been re ordered in place of the oak press as provision for pressing was requested by Kellaton. The following was AGREED

- Provide a collection tin – parish charity names would be placed in a hat following the event to allocate funds.
- Commence pressing – 11a.m.
- Bottle washing would be done by dishwasher to enable apple juice to be sold.
- Those attending would be advised to bring picnic/food and those working provided for.

11. REPORTS

- Cllr Lynn – Reported concern over the anti-social behaviour of BMX cyclists in Brookings Wood.
- Cllr Goodman – Had forwarded the 'free' half term activities at Dartmouth Leisure Centre to Stokenham School.
- Cllr Proffitt – Attended the Dementia Conference held at Follaton House. There had been information on friendly parish spaces, challenges of social isolation for dementia and many informative local projects shared. Events were going to be held quarterly and she would attend and report back.
- Cllr Pain – Attended the Kingsbridge Estuary forum online. There was concern with regard to a red marine seaweed invading from the pacific. He had raised the issue of chlorine water discharge from hot tubs into town sewage systems and thus onto the estuary. This was of interest to those hosting as it had not been considered so would be taken up. Gordon Waterhouse had published a new book on birds of the estuary which Cllr Pain endorsed as a superb book.
- Cllrs Pain and Robinson attended the climate conference at Follaton House. Many attendees had declared climate emergency on their websites and he questioned whether there was such a statement for Stokenham. With the creation of a new website for Stokenham the Chairman acknowledged that the parish had supported such but currently there was no specific statement so he would look to see if such could be incorporated noting it did not want to appear as an afterthought! Phil Baker, District principal planning officer spoke about planning problems but Cllr Pain did not feel there was much feedback. Consideration was given to ethical banks used and noted that Dittsham Parish Council had addressed this matter and could offer advice. He had forwarded the Meteorological Office climate report for South Hams to parish council for interest. There was also information on the Bio Regional learning centre based on River Dart along with a Devon 'donut' group providing centralised professional advice. There was to be a Devon Communities together meeting at Frogmore on the 23rd October which Cllr Greening had already advised she would be attending. There was a Climate action plan for schools which he had passed to Stokenham School. The South Dartmoor Community energy group spoke on upgrading buildings which could help Stokenham Parish Hall and they could in future attend a show/event in Stokenham to help residents.

- Cllr Robinson – Advised the South Hams Energy Show would in fact be attending next year to look at opportunities for everyone to save on costs. They looked at recycling and using different initiatives in the area and Stokenham was not highlighted as being as involved as other parishes. However it was noted that whilst Cllrs Robinson and Pain had agreed to be part of the interviews/questionnaires they had not been contacted due to officer sickness so no information from Stokenham had been used. What was of interest from the conference was the host of support for groups. She would approach the school with ideas like composting for school dinner leftovers and other such waste.
- Cllr Addison – Attended a First Aid course provided through Woodland Trust for volunteers and then went coppicing! Attendees viewed the bat boxes to see if any bats had moved in. Sadly 3 bird nests and lots of snails.
- Cllr Hart – Reviewed the new climbing net and how it was being used and advised mums he spoke to were very enthusiastic.
- Cllr Rogers – Obtained riders dismount signs for a Chillington footpath as requested and would install. He had cleared Beeson Pool, Withery Well and lower Beeson as they were drowning so cleared all buddles/ditches et al and inside the Beeson Pool field as it was set to clover so accessible.
- Cllr Spence – Noted Caroline Voaden MP had advised, by email, that she had met with District and County with all agreeing to hire an adaptation manager, thus implementing a decision taken by the Slapton Line Partnership in November 2023. The aim of this hiring was to spread awareness that residents of both sides of the bay needed to adapt their behaviours in anticipation of the eventual demise of the road across the Line. A Slapton Line meeting would be held in the near future.
He and Cllr Rogers went with the clerk to review a drainage problem area up past the Christmas tree field. This year would encounter the first significant harvest of Christmas trees to be carried out in the next few weeks with large trucks entering by the top gate. Feedback to the owner would be sent highlighting mud on the road and flooding issues with mitigation suggestions.

CLERK'S REPORT

- A quote for the footpath 'Cyclists Dismount' signs had been obtained but no communication with a proof received in last two weeks so chased.
- It was noted that the Environment Agency intend to release the following update reports:
December 2024: A 'National assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024' report - this report will use our new national flood risk assessment (NaFRA2) data and our updated National Coastal Erosion Risk Map (NCERM)
Early 2025: 'Risk of flooding from rivers and sea' and 'Risk of flooding from surface water' data on 'Check your long-term flood risk' and available on data.gov.uk
Early 2025: an updated check coastal erosion risk for an area in England, Shoreline Management Plan Explorer and available on data.gov.uk
Spring 2025: 'Flood zone' data on 'Flood map for planning' and available on data.gov.uk
- Notification had been received from Devon Association of Local Councils that a face to face meeting with the Devon County Leader, to hear and discuss financial challenges, priorities and future strategies, was to be held Thursday 14th November at The Watermark, Ivybridge.

12. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Audit

The required completion notice had been placed advising that a clear audit had been issued for April 2023 to March 2024.

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current £855.31

Savings £142,016.74

Received

Orchard Link – Repayment less £5 admin for Oak Press £45.00

SHDC – Balance of Precept £23137.50

Devon County Council – Reimbursement for grass cutting £602

HMRC – VAT Reimbursement Apr 23 to Mar 24 £2777.66

Interest – Oct £105.68

Payments:

HMRC Oct – Tax & NI £239.69

Wages Oct £1350.40

DCC Oct– Pension £434.65

BWP Creative Ltd (t/a Parish Council websites) Annual hosting of website £273.60

Orchard Link – Rehiring Metal Apple Press for Kellaton £40.00

PKF Littlejohn – External Audit £378.00

13 NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 21st November 2024 commencing at 7.30p.m in the Wesley Smith Room, Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.30p.m.

Signed Chairman Dated: 21st November 2024.