

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2026 IN THE
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:**COUNCILLORS:**

**GAIL ADDISON
OLLY BROOKING
CHRIS HART
RICHARD PAIN
STEVE TAYLOR
JULIAN BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)**

**JONATHAN ANSELL
PAULA DOUST
TIM LYNN
PIERS SPENCE (Chair)**

Also in attendance:

Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon

APOLOGIES:**COUNCILLORS:**

**ADRIAN GOODMAN
LIZ ROBINSON**

**KIM GREENING
CHARLES 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. None Received.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of full council meeting dated 21st May 2026 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

Three members of the public were present. Peter Stone, Torcross, raised a question on the environmental status of the foreshore area. He asserted that the Environment Agency screening application excluded the area from Limpet Rocks to the north end of Torcross from the SSSI. Those at the meeting did not share his opinion, but urged him to attend the Drop-in meeting hosted by the Environment Agency on 30th June, where he could get definitive information.

He later enquired how many additional passing places on the north-south routes could be created or improved for the initial £1.5m budget. Advised that DCC Highways were aiming to achieve 50 in the first tranche of works, with further locations to be addressed in successive phases.

Laura Sedden of Brookfield, Stokenham, was present to tell of an accident that had occurred the previous week when a vehicle crashed into her garden wall. The road had been a concern since her family moved in 3 years ago. Her two boys and four neighbouring children all used the school bus, and along with other children had to cross the main road to reach the stop. She felt that

vehicles travelled too fast within the 30mph zone, probably due to the transition from the 60mph limit between Chillington and Stokenham. This was a straight section meaning traffic did not slow down. Her property was on a blind bend with no pavement, and the location of the accident was exactly where pedestrians would stand to cross the road. Councillors offered their sympathy and explained that the issue of speeding was a parish-wide concern of long standing, for which no obvious solution had been found. Cllr Brazil could explain the requirements of County highways and the process required to undertake any highway changes. Parish Council would support her campaign and recommended she wrote to Cllr Brazil requesting a SCARF with monitor cables being installed at this point to provide data on vehicle speeds. With the degrading verge of the main A379 from Stokenham towards Chillington many vehicles were swerving to miss dangerous potholes by Brooking Wood.

Three members of the public left the meeting.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil noted the Slapton Line Partnership meeting scheduled for the following day where the Environment Agency would put forward their design for the Torcross sea defence works. He was concerned at the lack of detail supplied to date on the termination of the defences: if the exposed area by the car park, currently the responsibility of SHDC, was not included in the works, that left it vulnerable. He cited Beesands sea wall as a classic example of a structure that had saved one end of the village but left the other end at the mercy of the sea.

Cllr Spence responded that it was his understanding that the reason for the lack of detail at this stage was that it was contingent on the outcome of the funding application to rebuild the road, but agreed that the exact division of responsibility for each section needed clarity. He hoped this would be provided at the 30 June drop-in meeting. Cllr Brazil advised that a bid had been worked up for the road from the Structures Fund and as yet there was no indication of when a decision would be made.

Cllr Brazil also raised the concern that works were due to commence in August, the worst time of the year to bring heavy vehicles carrying plant to Torcross, and he felt they should be put back by a month. It was pointed out that the timetable had been based on the projected duration of the works and the perceived need to have them completed before the winter storm season began. The start date could certainly be delayed, but with the associated risk that the defences might not be finished before the storms returned, leaving the village vulnerable to irreparable damage. Cllr Lynn suggested that heavy plant should be transported by night, with a police escort, in a convoy of low-loaders and with the road closed to other traffic.

Cllr Brooking advised that some businesses might not survive the year without income from this summer's trade. Against this it was pointed out that all of the businesses were potentially vulnerable if the works weren't done in time, so it might be a question of sacrificing one summer for ten to twenty years' protection. It was felt that the works represented the best chance to buy the village an extra few decades of protection; without them, the frontage at Torcross was highly vulnerable. If the properties were abandoned it could spell the beginning of the end of the village.

Cllr Lynn noted that fishermen using Torcross needed to be aware of the large boulders movement in order to remove equipment and asked that he be informed when this was to take place. Cllr Brooking asked who was representing the businesses on Slapton Line Partnership and was advised that Cllr Osborne of Slapton had an agenda item.

In other news, progress was being made at County. The road maintenance contract with M Group had been extended while Government re-organisation changes were worked through to ensure they were able to be flexible until they were sure of the outcome. There was no known finish date for the Kingsbridge culvert roadworks.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 1430/26/SCR Request for EIA screening opinion for proposed Torcross Sea Defences, Torcross – Noted as no notification nor consultation with parish council received.
- 1452/26/PAT Permanent backup generator Communication Station Ntl Site 13119 Widgecombe Farm Stokenham TQ7 2TQ – *For info only*.
- 1515/26/ARC Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 6 (CMP), 7 (WSI), 9 (External Lighting), 12 (External Materials), 13 (Landscape Scheme) of planning consent 0604/25/FUL Prideaux House, Torcross – Parish Council felt that the conditions imposed in the original application should be adhered to in all respects:
The roof was originally going to be European natural slate but has changed to Marley Rivendale fibre cement slates, much inferior and without the character of natural slate. All the examples of white uPVC external “joinery” are illustrated in black/dark grey, which is preferable but why has this changed? The application form for 0604/25/FUL stated they would be grey aluminium. Wall lights were originally mounted at circa 1.8m height but are now shown at c. 2.3m – this is simply too high in this sensitive dark-sky area. Finally, the Construction Management Plan is a nonsense plucked from a completely different application – it references the A468 (which is in fact in Caerphilly) and names and dates do not tally.
- 1565/26/HHO Replacement windows, new fenestration arrangement to rear elevation and removal of existing conservatory 15 Robins Field, Chillington – Response 16th July – No objection but it was felt this style jarred with neighbouring properties.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE – 1255/26/TPO Proposal: TPO 184; T1: Sweet Chestnut – sectional dismantle to ground level, heavily leaning towards highway, evidence of root plate movement, structural instability. T2: Ash – fell to ground level, dieback present. T3: Sycamore – remove broken branches, make safe. T4: Sweet Chestnut – crown reduction over highway by 2- 3m, highway clearance. T5: Ash – fell to ground level, dieback present, risk of failure onto highway. T7: Ash – remove hanging limb over road (see tree works doc), fell to ground level, dieback present, risk to highway. T8: Ash – reduce to standing monolith at 4-5m from ground level, dieback, within falling distance of highway. T9: Ash – reduce to monolith at 4-6m from ground level, dieback present, risk of failure onto highway. T10: Ash – fell to ground level, dead. T11: Ash – reduce to monolith at 4-5m from ground level, dieback, damaged upper crown. T12: Sweet Chestnut – remove hung limb (see tree works doc), sectional dismantle, twin stem with structural split, structural failure. Lannacombe Mill Lannacombe Chivelstone TQ7 2NE – Response 15th July – The work was proportionate and reasonable given proximity to the highway.

5. BIKE RACKS

Gemma Bristow had advised that District would not allow the first parallel parking space in the row at Torcross to be used for bike racks. Keiran from Slapton Field Centre supported using the space next to the mosaic.

Proposals for sites for bike racks were discussed and it was AGREED to;

- raise the adjacent mosaic parking area with District car parks as sustainable travel provision with their donated bike rack and seek permission together with
- requesting agreement for an area at Stokenham Parish Hall
- installing one rack at Chillington Hall/car park and
- obtaining quotes for two additional “toast-rack”-style racks with Cllrs Taylor and Brooking to install.

6. CHILLINGTON HALL STORAGE

Following a request from Chillington Hall Committee regarding the area they use for overflow storage Cllr Addison met with Cllrs Taylor and Doust to consider proposals. The current storage area is suffering from graffiti and vandalism. Proposed solutions included an additional adjoining container, moving the existing container, installing a new fence, and a host of other options.

After discussion, the CCA Committee concluded that additional storage was not required, as they could tidy and sort to make better use of the existing space. They propose to reduce the opportunities for vandalism and graffiti by blocking access to the rear of the hall with a new fence flush to the perimeter, with a robust gate. They would reuse the current container, but would probably have to replace the rotted floor, move it to allow ventilation to the hall wall and discourage climbing, and site it on hardstanding. Prickly vegetation would be left to further deter unauthorized visitors.

It was AGREED that Cllr Taylor would draw up a specification and circulate and then three quotes be sought.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

It was AGREED for attendance at Stokenham Village Fete 11th July as follows;

- (a) content and form of a survey to raise awareness – Provide a suggestions box and Cllr Taylor to draft a questionnaire and circulate.
- (b) equipment required (gazebo, table, chairs) – Cllr Brooking unable to attend but to provide all equipment.
- (c) rota for manning stall – Clerk to circulate a list for 2 councillors to attend each hour.

Free apple juice to be provided along with advertising the forthcoming apple day.

8. REPORTS

- Cllr Lynn – Advised and encouraged all councillors to spread the word that there was a 3-bedroomed property available for locals to rent at Fordsworth Cottages, Hallsands. All enquiries through Cllr Lynn.
- Cllr Doust – Walked the Line with Cllr Spence last May Bank Holiday. Cllr Brazil had been in attendance at the other end and it was noted that walkers had hugely enjoyed the freedom to walk along the traffic-free road, with some 200-250 attending.
- Cllr Addison – Advised that the wall on the highway along the footpath on the Chillington side of Hafod house had been damaged by a vehicle and was unsafe. The fence on the property adjacent to the permissive path between Helmers and Orchard Way was about to fall down and a danger. This would be advised by letter to Remus, the management agent.
- Cllr Hart – Noted the Chillington open space pedestrian gate was in disrepair and needed replacement. Cllr Rogers would be asked to advise.

- Cllr Brooking – Advised that the Start Bay Business group was making progress, raising awareness that businesses were open with yellow signs and a map, and were now collecting data from all businesses to consider loss of income. As responses were anonymous it was hard to know whether any downturn could be directly attributed to the loss of the road (as opposed to, say, the general economic background) but they hoped to learn from this information.

Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting and gave the report above before leaving.

CLERK'S REPORT

- A letter had been received from Rachel Heath at The Cricket Inn and emailed to all requesting assistance to purchase new batteries for their defibrillator. Include on next agenda.
- The football goals for Chillington play area are expected to be delivered in the next two weeks. The Clerk agreed additional costs for delivery and for adding weights, as the originally quoted specification could be picked up and moved around. Increased delivery cost for plastic beams for Helmer's bridge was emailed out and the contractor asked to proceed with the order.
- The Environment Agency had been contacted to obtain an up-to-date list of key-holders for the flood gates at Beesands and Torcross. The 20-year agreement expires in 2027 and provision must be made for this to be renewed in any new plans.
- Plans for the sea defence works at Torcross will be on display at a public drop-in session at Stokenham Parish Hall 30th June 1pm to 7pm.
- National Briefing film creators had requested that contact is made with those who attended the screening to remind/ask if they have completed Part 2 of the research questionnaire.
- Cllr Victor Abbott from Ivybridge had requested to speak in open forum to parish council to encourage actions to provide dementia-friendly communities. He will be attending 16th July meeting.

9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current: £108.75

Savings: £63,265.34

Investment: May meeting agreed to reinvest £90,000 in 6-month bond at 3.85% (rate correct 5/5/26).

Received – Interest on savings paid 3 monthly next due end June.

Payments:

Bank Service charge £7.00

Hosted (Broadband and Telephone) £55.06

HMRC June – Tax & NI £344.52

Wages June £1421.37

DCC June– Pension £463.82

Stokenham Hall Committee – Refreshments for National Emergency film £20.00

NBB Recycled Furniture (Mary Newman) – Grant for Hallsands Commemorative bench £293.94

Piers Spence – Travel Feb 26 – May 26 £110.35

10. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 16th July 2026 commencing at 7.30p.m in the Wesley Smith Room, Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.15p.m.

Signed Chair Dated: 16th July 2026.