

**STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 16TH JULY 2026 IN
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS:

GAIL ADDISON

OLLY BROOKING

ADRIAN GOODMAN

CHRIS HART

RICHARD PAIN

CHARLES ROGERS

JULIAN BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)

JONATHAN ANSELL

PAULA DOUST

KIM GREENING

TIM LYNN

LIZ ROBINSON

PIERS SPENCE (Chair)

Also in attendance:

Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLORS:

STEVE TAYLOR

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 18th June 2026 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM

Josh Wilkens of Network Plus was in attendance to provide information on improvements to be made to a combined sewer overflow in Chillington that would reduce the number of times the screen needed to be cleared during storm events. The works would commence at the beginning of September, to be completed before winter, and would principally affect the back garden of 7 Meadowside, and another property in Copperfield, and cause some disruption along Shindle Park. A hedge at the end of Copperfield would be moved and the construction management plan called for them to stone out a garden in Shindle Park to prevent machinery from dragging mud onto the highway. The intention was to leave the area looking better than when they arrived. Discussion took place with regard to the depth of the well, size of machinery to be used and residents' parking while works were ongoing. They hoped to finish construction before Christmas then reinstate in January/February. Works would be in Meadowside through to Copperfield so there was little direct impact on the A379 although deliveries of materials could affect traffic flows.

Tim Pearce of Meadowview on the A379 advised he lived directly opposite the compound being

built and currently parked there. He appreciated works needed to be carried out and asked whether any screening would be provided and whether there could be restrictions on contractors occupying all the available parking spots. Space was limited but the contractors would be there during the day so the space would be free in the evening. Tim Pearce suggested additional parking within Meadowside and the bottom of Green Park Way. Josh acknowledged Heras fencing and that sheeting could be installed but as works were during Winter there was a risk it could blow over.

Josh Wilkins and Tim Pearce left the meeting.

Victor Abbott, district councillor for Ivybridge, was present to speak about dementia. SHDC declared itself a dementia-friendly council in 2019 and he was now engaged in a campaign to spread the word to individual parish councils: Stokenham was the fifth he had visited. Dementia was very common – most people knew someone, or knew of someone, who was affected – and there were many quite achievable things that could be done to make the environment easier for people with dementia to navigate. He proceeded to give several examples. In Cornwood, a dementia-friendly walk had been devised, on quiet roads. In South Brent, dementia-friendly signage had been introduced, using words in plain script, including pictures, and paying attention to the colours used. The Chair asked if there were any planning implications with outdoor signs and it was acknowledged there might be. Finally there was a simple checklist that carers could complete, containing personal details and a physical description that could be used to identify someone with dementia if they were lost.

Cllr Greening noted that Chillington Patient Participation Group were already looking at what could be done. The catchment for the surgery was wider than the parish but she had spoken to the Brixton/Yealmpton coordinator. She took on board the shop and post office reference and noted that others would be seeing things in isolation so they could bring everything together.

Victor Abbott and another representative from the Patient Participation Group left the meeting.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil was of the opinion that the selected format for Local Government Review was the worst of all available options, with the county split up into Greater Plymouth, Greater Torbay, Greater Exeter, and the rump of Devon Coast and Countryside down the middle. The largest conurbation in Coast and Countryside was Barnstaple, which was three hours away. There were many anomalies, for example, the north-east end of Totnes was now part of Torbay, while the rest of the town remained with the rump. Among the many disadvantages was a reduced area to raise funds from. Councils in the first tranche of reorganization were already asking for a Judicial Review of the decision and Cllr Brazil had no doubt that Devon would launch one imminently. He was asked where the headquarters of the new council would be and responded that they would need three hubs, perhaps Totnes, Okehampton and Barnstaple, as nowhere was central enough to make a practical meeting place. The timetable for implementation would be elections to shadow authorities in 2027, then those newly elected will take decisions pending stepping up the following year. He would, as Leader of DCC, be appealing to Andy Burnham to ask for everything to be put on hold for 5 to 10 years.

A councillor asked what would happen to Follaton House: the answer was not much, as most of the building is now privately rented.

The Environment Agency held an open day on the Torcross works and following on from this fencing by the car park had been removed. A councillor noted there was nothing to indicate where

visitors can access the beach, although it was pointed out that the slipway was now open. At present £1.2 m was being spent on Phase 1 of the minor roads improvement programme; Phase 2 will include the Deer Bridge route to Slapton, but only after Access Only had been established. Cllr Doust suggested putting a sign at Stanborough Gate indicating the road was narrow and users would need to reverse.

The Kingsbridge conduit works were due to complete the first week in September and this message should be shared.

Cllr Rogers referred to the change of management at the Kingsbridge Leisure Centre and noted that he had suggested the outside need a bit of tidying up. Cllr Brazil replied that this could possibly be done while they had scaffolding erected to instal solar panels. One councillor suggested the inside needed updating too.

Cllr Brazil left the meeting.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

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

- 0813/26/FUL Retrospective application for temporary gateway widening and formation of hardstanding (one year) in association with Christmas Tree Harvesting Land At Sx 804 410 Stokenham – The Wildlife Trigger table stated that works would have no effect yet a bank had been removed. How was this possible? This land sat within the National Landscape and was subject to the highest level of protection. The gateway now in use was the source of increased flows of muddy water that regularly clogged up culverts at Beeson Pool Cross. The original gateway, from which water drained more readily, had been allowed to grow in and was now blocked. Parish Council had offered to dig it out but the owners said they would do it. Nothing was done. It is essential that the gateway is cambered before the rains start again, otherwise future flooding is a certainty. The entrance needs to be stoned out so that exiting tractors out don't drag mud on to the road. The Clerk will write to the owners to this effect.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE - None received.

5. GRANT

The request for a grant to replace the pads and batteries in The Cricket Inn defibrillator at a cost of no more than £220 was considered and it was AGREED to fund on condition that the device is registered on The Circuit.

6. CHILLINGTON OPEN SPACE

It was;

- (a) The marking-out of a five-a-side pitch at Chillington Open Space at a cost of £90.00 to mark out and then £40.00 thereafter - AGREED
- (b) Additional work to remove the scrub willows encroaching on the pitch between the bridge and the slide be done at a cost of £530 plus VAT. Works to be commenced towards the end of August – AGREED.
- (c) From the three quotes obtained for the works to relocate, tidy up and secure the storage area beside the hall. To appoint Greenspace at a cost of £2001.34 to use plastic beams instead of a concrete base and purchase, at an additional amount, ply sheets to line the base of the container and bolt onto the beams - AGREED

7. BIKE RACKS

It was AGREED that the rack already provided from grant funding for Torcross would be placed at Chillington Village Hall at a fitting cost of not more than £50. Following review, once fitted, consideration would be given to whether two more from the same supplier should be obtained or other makes sought for elsewhere in the parish.

Cllr Brazil arrived at the meeting and gave his report as above.

8. REPORTS

- Cllr Addison – Passed on compliments and thanks to parish council on behalf of Chillington residents, who very much appreciate the improvements made to the village hall and playing field in recent years.

Cllr Ansell – Attended the Parish Hall meeting last Monday. The committee are going to renovate the flooring and are proposing to install a new infra-red (IR) heating system in preference to the air-to-air heat pump system recommended by parish council. Cllr Ansell had been asked to request a contribution £8,000 from parish council towards the IR system, but had been given no documentation to make a financial case. Cllr Doust had some communication from Anne Bowyer advising she had received Cllr Pain's information on an air-to-air heat pump, but been told that the committee was set to press ahead with the IR system against parish council advice. She had not seen any quotes. The matter was given added urgency by a report that the suppliers of the IR system had given the hall committee a deadline of 1 August or face a price rise.

There followed a discussion on the way forward, with reference to recent guidance from HMG's Climate Change Committee suggesting that public buildings will in future be required to incorporate cooling as well as heating systems. Air-to-air heat pumps provide both cooling and heating, while IR provides only heating. A well designed IR system can be upwards of 90% efficient. A-2-A heat pumps have efficiency ratings of over 300%, that is, they provide more than three times the output for a given input. It was noted that there was no significant difference in cost between the two systems.

Someone asked whether the parish hall committee was elected or self-selecting, and it was noted that it was made up of representatives of the various groups and organizations that used the hall. It was acknowledged that significant funding had been obtained from a National Lottery grant. Parish Council had declared a Climate Emergency and it was clear in discussion that an overwhelming majority of councillors were unwilling to support the hall committee's preference for the IR approach. Cllr Doust agreed to ensure the committee chair was aware of council's view on this matter.

- Cllr Doust – had attended a Teams meeting of the SLP's A379 sub-group. The views presented were mostly the familiar ones, from the usual suspects: a temporary bridge should be constructed, the Skerries bank was in need of replenishing, shingle repatriation should be encouraged. Lou Hoskins forwarded the 2018 Beach Management Plan for them to read and digest.
- Cllr Rogers – reported on toilets and pumping down at Beesands: South West Water had dug a trench to the middle of the car park and laid a new pipe with a hole for natural drainage. The contractors advised they were diverting water from the overflow tank. This

was said to be road run-off but Cllr Rogers described it as grey effluent. Cllr Greening reported that a resident of Beesands had complained about a smell that had never been there before. The area around the bus shelter was messy and the smell was dreadful. She also mentioned a membrane floating in the water along the shoreline. The Chair said this was the remains of the coastal defence “sausage” that had been destroyed in last winter’s storms, and he would advise Dan Field. The smell should be reported to Environmental Health who could ascertain what works had actually been done and whether further treatment was necessary.

- Cllr Lynn – attended Hallsands for the official opening of the old village lookout and the installation of a bench and a memorial to a fallen WW2 airman. There followed a buffet at The Cricket Inn and he would forward the photographs of the day for the news bulletin.

CLERK’S REPORT

- The Helmer’s bridge works had been completed, during which it became apparent that in the course of recent repair works carried out by Remus’s contractors, non-removable grip boards across the bridge had been attached to rotten timbers below. Some boards were lifting but the screws not coming out. This section was in fact parish council property and repairs were required urgently. Greenspace had provided a quote of £1,416.00 plus VAT which included £690 labour.
- The parish hall committee now appeared to need a further £8,000 grant from parish council to extend the IR heating system to include the foyer and Wesley Smith Room. They were awaiting a surveyor to advise of all the works required to the hall. At present no cost was known for the survey but parish council had indicated they would pay for this. Cllr Pain had provided a breakdown of costs for an air source heat pump.
- Greenspace had commenced clearing roadside weeds but surface degradation had led to the accumulation of stones/rubble at the verges. Two car windows had already been damaged and as a result this method of weed removal would have to be discontinued, as the damage frequency was too high.
- Money had been paid for the bench at Hallsands but then an invoice for £25 for fitting had been received. This would be paid out tonight.
- Met with Paul McFadden, Devon County Footpaths officer. He acknowledged that works in the parish needed dealing with and would look to find a contractor to get these done. Whilst the area above Beesands Cellars was in the annual clearance, the steps and other area sat within National Trust land. They did not feel that works were required and it was suggested a local meeting with the Ranger could be set up.

9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current: £1,424.75

Savings: £60,824.93

Investment: Reinvested £90,000 in 6-month bond at 3.85% (rate correct 5/5/26).

Received

Interest on savings paid 3 monthly £559.59. Next due end September.

HMRC – VAT Reimbursement 2024 - 25 £1,032.36

Payments:

Bank Service charge £7.00

Hosted (Broadband and Telephone) £55.06

HMRC July – Tax & NI £344.52

Wages July £1421.37

DCC July– Pension £463.82

Knockout Projects – Installation of bench at Hallsands £25.00

Greenspace – Self weighted Wheeled Football Goals £3,708.00

Greenspace – Chillington play area zip wire and seat £417.60

Greenspace – Works to replace bridge slope and slats £3,724.27

Tesco – Prize and paper cups for fete £10.55

P. Doust – Reimbursement of Banner, flag and raffle tickets £50.76

10. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 17th September 2026 commencing at 7.30p.m in the Wesley Smith Room, Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.50p.m.

Signed Chair Dated: 16th July 2026.