STOKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2026 IN
STOKENHAM PARISH HALL

PRESENT:
COUNCILLORS:

GAIL ADDISON	**JONATHAN ANSELL**
OLLY BROOKING	**PAULA DOUST (Chair)**
ADRIAN GOODMAN	**KIM GREENING**
CHRIS HART	**TIM LYNN**
RICHARD PAIN	**LIZ ROBINSON**
CHARLES ROGERS	

JULIAN BRAZIL (District and County Councillor)

Also in attendance:
Clerk – Mrs G. Claydon

APOLOGIES:
COUNCILLORS:

PIERS SPENCE	**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 17th September 2026 were approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

3. OPEN FORUM
John Litchfield lived in Chillington and was present to request a Vehicle Activated System Sign in his parish. He commutes to Kingsbridge through a number of parishes that have speed signs to warn about speed limit. He then listed the changes of speed set from Carehouse Cross through to Kingsbridge. As a local he felt fully aware of the speed situation but many visitors that travel the road do not pay attention so a reminder would help. Cllr Rogers noted this matter came up many times and with such a large parish all villages would want a sign. Parking in Stokenham and Chillington acts as a deterrent for speed and Cllr Brooking added that the highway code states 30mph in built up areas so motorists should know. John Litchfield felt that visitors to the area note 40mph and stick at that speed all the way. The Chair said that this matter would be placed on the next agenda but more information would be required from those who have such.

Steve Kilpatrick of Torcross noted that contractors had repaired half the road down to Torcross so that the holes at the edges forced motorists to the middle. Cllr Doust advised Dan Thomas, Highways Devon County Council, had announced they had £4.5million allocated towards repairing roads. The Clerk noted the roads were also ‘signed’ shut for a week but nothing had

been done and Carehouse Cross to Chillington the sides of the roads remained hazardous. Up the back roads from Stokenham to Slapton highways was shortly going to increase the size of passing spaces but it was the potholes either side that have deep holes.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil covered issues around roadworks and updated on various matters. Firstly he responded that the Kingsbridge bridge can take 40tons in weight. It was noted that the equipment ferried in would have been 65 tons (cranes and units) so he would check again.

No problems had arisen with the lorry movement at present and the majority were heading to Beesands. Cllr Brazil asked all those present to keep in touch and he would try to mitigate any problems. Cllr Greening advised that the past Tuesday morning she sat at the roundabout with a large truck and two more trying to get round and it was all moving large machines! Contractors had also being carrying out works in Loddiswell but with an accident travelling was hard. There were also traffic lights between Halwell and Harbertonford for works set to be done.

There had been a County Cabinet meeting the previous day. Farmers and the farming community in Devon had a high suicide rate – 3 times as high as other places. Devon had reintroduced the wellbeing and mental health team so he urged those present that if they were aware of anyone struggling to let him know as they could specifically target. Suspension and pausing of the Local Government Review (LGR) had meant they budgeted an amount of money in reserves for implementation. This was paused and being reviewed but he was personally pretty confident the problem had gone. Therefore they had taken from funds £4million towards projects for resurfacing roads etc. He asked all to continue to report highway problems on the website.

LGR he was confident had finished and there might be a statement Wednesday next week. County had deposited their Judicial Review but not triggered it as they were seeking clarification. All councils in Devon were desperately trying to use knowledge and work from the LGR process and were working much better together. The main piece of work was now around making all operating systems for Devon fit to build resilience and cybercrime needed to be addressed. Currently they wanted to keep Districts and deliver decisions locally. Planning rules have changed so they cannot as councillors call applications to committee but Parish Councils will still be able to comment and input local knowledge. Adult services connect to local groups like Age Concern, Kingsbridge centre et al but wherever the support is they will try to ensure decisions are taken locally. Cornwall Council has £1billion of debt, Somerset have problems and Devon is about the best and this was still 2 tier! All would support Mayoralty as they were keen to get funding, therefore Plymouth and Torbay were on board. Cornwall would have been included but they still seek to go alone.

On the matter of water access Devon had gone into severe drought. He then outlined that South Devon remained connected but the other areas were suffering. South West Water will not advise of their Emergency Plan but Devon County have put one together as closing schools would be a disaster and Devon County must get water to vulnerable people. Cllr Brazil had written to the Minister for Water to state South West Water must ‘pull their finger out’. They should have built a new reservoir over the last few years and have not with South West Water saying they would stop water to non essential businesses, window cleaner, car washing, breweries etc but these businesses will get no compensation. He felt South West Water had been negligent in adapting to climate change.

Devon County Councillors were off to Great Torrington to listen to issues and would see the 850 acres of data site. Then they would go on to Barnstaple in the afternoon.

Bins at Torcross were behind the Keir Heras fencing and not being emptied, this was highlighted.
Cllr Brazil left the meeting.

4. PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

Applications considered at this meeting and response sent to District.

- 2434/26/HHO Conversion of existing greenhouse to new garden room with link to main house Old Coleridge Farm, Coleridge Lane, Chillington – Response 26th October –
  We strongly object to this application for the following reasons:
  Paucity of application and drawings leaves much to be desired so how did this achieve validation. The application form - materials – has no windows or doors noted yet there are new ones on the drawings. Drawing JB 2988/P2 shows new 4m and 3m wide bifold doors (J) and new doors to the water tower (G.) With the loss of farmland to create car parking this is an unacceptable change of use from agricultural to residential so is not supportable. An EV charging point is noted to be in new parking area but not shown on the plans and how will electricity be provided to this field? The loss of long stretches (40m+) of beautiful vertical laid stone wall to create vehicular entrance to the field and visual splays is wholly unacceptable. This wall is likely the same age as the house, which is noted as 'Georgian Style' and exceeds in quality the fine walling on the other side of the lane. The vision splays would also demolish the end of the taller stone boundary wall to the southern boundary of this field. Surely the SHDC Heritage and Conservation officers will have something to say about this as this wall is likely irreplaceable at current skill levels/costs to rebuild. Drawing P4 - PV panels need to be identified and numbered - size and rating kw as does the water butt need to be identified and size/capacity stated. Design + Access statement Access - "no changes to current access" but the new access to field is not mentioned. Wildlife Trigger table - surely a wildlife survey is required as major changes to greenhouse roof - but the Wildlife Report states existing greenhouse to be demolished but shown extended on drawing JB 2988/P2, please explain? Wildlife report states that the field to the south of the house will be unaffected by the building works and yet plan JB 2988/P6 shows a car parking area added. Wildlife report also has the paragraph referring to the car park struck through and yet drawing JB 2988/P6 remains a part of the application. Is the "honeycomb grid" to be plastic or concrete on this pristine field?

  PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE
  2811/26/NMM Non-material minor amendment to planning consent 2677/25/FUL for relocation of the bat roost from the roof space to the store outbuilding. Modification of the fenestration. Development Site at SX 810 395, Beeson. No comment.

Cllr Brazil arrived in the meeting.

5. ADVISORY LEAFLET

The draft Emergency Plan leaflet outlining the route for local contact in an Emergency was tabled and AGREED as follows;

(a) To decide whether any leaflet changes are required – As some people are colour blind the colours and font would be considered by a contact at RNIB. Emergency assembly places needed to be included and the leaflet should have one fold.
(b) To agree whether to provide leaflets to Torcross, Beesands and Hallsands or parish wide – Parish wide in view of inland flooding by Coleridge Cottages and Meadowside.

(c) To approve, if necessary, printing and circulation – Send out draft again to councillors to approve, then print 1200 with Cllr Brooking overseeing printing.

Pat Hunter and Steve Fitzpatrick left the meeting.

6. CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The invitation to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Michael and All Angels Church was circulated and it was AGREED as follows;

(a) Whether to take part on a theme of Christmas films and songs – AGREED to take part.
(b) Who wishes to lead ideas – Cllrs Greening to lead with assistance from Cllr Doust. Cllr Robinson to obtain a smaller Christmas tree.
(c) Who will help obtain or create decoration and a limit on cost allowed – A limit of £50 for materials was set.

7. APPLE DAY

Various tasks were required to ensure all is covered to enable the event proceeding. Cllr Spence, due to a fall, was unable to collect the press from Harbertonford and therefore Cllr Lynn would step in. There would be people to unload on site.

The survey would be reprinted with addition of two questions and Cllr Brooking would supply extension cable and hosepipe. Cllr Ansell would bring the empty bottles, lids, stickers and apples.

8. REPORTS

- Cllr Doust – Was approached by Stokenham Church regarding the current situation at the graveyard. Plots were becoming limited and many residents being elderly and less able needed better path access for attendance usage. The Church had requested parish council to set aside finance for 7 to 10 years to assist. She had responded parish council needed a proposal and estimates for works along with recent end of year accounts, bank statements and permission of the diocese. She acknowledged that the Church surroundings left uncut looked bordering on disrespectful and some were upset.

  At Slapton Line there had been repeated questions around Torcross, Skerries shingle bank and other items and everything had been answered and she would circulate this.

  At Stokenham Parish Hall a decision was to be made shortly on heating. Mandy and Anne have worked hard from where they were to where they had reached now. Proposals would be put to the hall committee and they will come to parish council for an agenda item by12th November. An overview of changes from Euro Trades, their timeline, PVs and batteries for which they were misinformed on VAT was given so that now those quoting were pretty much the same.

John Litchfield left the meeting.

- Cllr Pain – Attended an online meeting regarding planning changes. Mainly it advised that all smaller applications were not going to committee but go straight to a planning officer.
- Cllr Rogers – Advised he had collected various gates and bits from Devon Footpaths yard and had a trailer ready to go. There were 6 self closing gates with one earmarked for Brooking Wood. The Clerk confirmed that she had a purchase order for £2000 from Devon County Council to cover footpath works.
- Cllr Lynn – He had attended meetings for fishermen regarding Torcross works and many fishermen were not happy and one may 'go under' if made to move his equipment. It was his assertion that while it might state online that all permits were sorted, they were not. South Hams Channel Fishermen tried to contact Kier but received no response. It said on the licence application that there was no fishing activity at Torcross. He stated that the

MMO licence has not been signed and it was his belief that the EA could not just expect fishermen to pick up fishing gear and go somewhere else without time and compensation.

.

CLERK'S REPORT

- Had a communication from a resident as to the integrity of Bowcombe/New Bridge, Kingsbridge. Forwarded email to Kelly Rowling, Kier and Cllr Brazil. Kelly had responded that any movement above 20 ton would require a movement order from County that the route is viable. She has gone further and enquired of County highways.
- The contractor has provided a photograph of the bike rack to be placed at Chillington Hall. Councillors are urged to consult it and give feedback as to placement.
- Noted that road closures are being implemented with either no works carried out (by night) or lack of notification to parish.
- Invitation by Citizens Advice, in partnership with Plymouth University, to an event to discuss rural poverty in Devon being held at Ashburton Town Hall as part of the Festival of Social Sciences. It is free, all welcome and those interested can just turn up for 10.15am or 1.45p.m on Weds 4th November.
- Notification and update from Environment Agency as to works at Torcross and permission just received from the MMO had been circulated to all council.

9. FINANCE AND CHEQUES

Balances were provided and the below transactions were approved:

Current: £999.81
Savings: £67,378.47
Investment: Reinvested £90,000 in 6-month bond till 10/12/26 at 3.85%

Received
Interest on savings paid 3 monthly. Next due end September - £279.45
HMRC – VAT Reim 2025/26 £569.09

Payments:

Bank Service charge £7.00
Hosted (Broadband and Telephone) £55.06
HMRC Oct – Tax & NI £369.78
Wages Oct £1461.93
DCC Oct– Pension £412.87

10. NEXT MEETING

The next full parish council meeting would be held on 19th November 2026 commencing at 7.30p.m in the Wesley Smith Room, Stokenham Parish Hall.

Meeting finished: 9.15p.m.

Signed …… Chair Dated: 19th November 2026.