

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the electors of Stoke Fleming Parish held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7pm

Present Parish Councillors: Katie Franks(Chairman), Mary Newman (Vice Chairman), Struan Coupar, Nick Wood, Charles Wreford-Brown, Hazel Smith, David Harris, County Councillor Julian Brazil
Joshua Gardner - Conservative County Council Candidate, Sue Tweed, Alison Shaw - St Peter's Church, Paul Girardot - Stoke Fleming Primary School, Geoffrey Newman, Allan Smith, Mike Dodsworth, Suzie Dodsworth - U3A, Jenny Harris, Juliet Lambert, Geraldine Sedgbeer, Peter Bailey, Anne Bailey, Gail Dorrington, Nicko Franks, Tina Graham - Dartmouth Academy, Amanda Gascoigne - Youth Club
Parish Clerks: Marion Foster and Judy Talbot

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The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 123rd Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Apologies

Michael Hicks, Trevor Mason, Joan Mason, Martin Judd, Shirley Ruddlesden, Judith Guard, Stoke Fleming Library

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2016, were circulated. Cllr Smith proposed, Cllr Newman seconded and all agreed that the minutes be accepted. They were then signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report - Katie Franks

We are delighted to see you all here this evening and also I would like to welcome new parishioners to this annual parish meeting. A relative who was moving house told me recently how useful the parish website and Neighbourhood Plan had been in helping her decide if the chosen village was a good place in which to live. Stoke Fleming is lucky to have an excellent monthly Magazine as well which showcases what goes on in the Parish and particularly here in the Village Hall. This information must be of help to all parishioners whether they are deciding if this is the right place to live and for all of us who live here. With this in mind it was proposed to the Parish Council that a kind of Freshers` Fayre might be a good idea to show everyone what is on offer in the Parish. Any organisation or club could have a table in the Hall and inform people what they do and how one could be involved and maybe it might encourage the interest of a younger element. We thought that September would be good month to do this and would appreciate feedback on this idea.

How lucky we are that the shop and Post Office has passed onto another pair of safe hands with Becky and Rob and St Peter`s has Alison Shaw at the helm and the Primary School, Paul Giradot.

Cllr Struan Coupar will be reporting on the Neighbourhood Plan and I just want to thank him and members of the Steering Group past and present and others who have contributed views and ideas, for their input. I don`t think anyone realises the amount of work that is entailed in producing this document and if it wasn`t for Struan`s dedication we wouldn`t be at this stage.

Alongside this the Parish Council has to keep pace with all the Government changes and

cuts in funding so as Marion will brief you we have had to raise the precept by £1 again for the coming year. Wages for the contract employees have risen as well as costs of maintenance of the Parish assets such as bus stops, benches and children's playground. We have been awarded some grants towards resurfacing the playground and repairing the Blackpool Bus shelter. We have once again joined forces with Dittisham and Dartmouth for Town and Parish Funding for weed spraying and we are moving towards having someone local to do a lengthsman's job around the Parish. The flooding in the village has been solved and thanks to the intervention of Cllr Coupar and Mark Malley the main road through the village was not closed for 18 months for repairs. A forewarning that Cavanna contractors are tarmacking the pavements outside Hockey Fields over the May half term.

The work of the Parish Clerk in getting these funds is ever important and Marion has worked tirelessly to secure as much funding as possible as well as keeping us Councillors along the right path. It is with huge sadness that we say farewell to her and thank her very much for all her work for us and the Parish over the last three years. We wish you all the very best for the future. Marion is in the middle of the handover to our new Clerk and we are very fortunate to be able to welcome Judy Talbot tonight and to say we are looking forward to working with you and hope you will enjoy your new role.

I have attended meetings at the Townstal Community Partnership this year which has a vibrant core and I believe it is important to maintain good links with our neighbours. If the West Dart development happens then we will need to have good communications with Townstal. Children go on from the Primary School to the Academy and we look to Dartmouth for services the village cannot offer.

Finally I'd like to thank Cllr Julian Brazil our County Councillor and Michael Hicks our District Councillor for their support and advice and say we do appreciate their attendance at our meetings. Grateful and warmest thanks to our Parish Councillors for all their hard work over this year. Please do come to Parish Council meetings as you are most welcome and we will try our best to attend to queries that are within our remit or pass them onto others who can help with the problem.

Thank you so much for coming this evening and I hope you find it interesting and enjoyable.

5. Financial Statement - Marion Foster (Retiring Clerk)

The Clerk presented a Summary Accounts Statement of Expenditure and Income for 2016/17, copies of which were distributed, confirming a surplus income over expenditure of just over £430.48. Confirmed the closing Bank Accounts Balance of £30,158.34 and mentioned that grant funds were down by some £7,000, mainly due to a Neighbourhood Plan grant of £5,000 in 15/16. Increases in the maintenance/repairs costs were reflected in the new Budget figures for 17/18 and formed part of the reason for the increase in the Precept by £1.00 per household. A copy of the summary is attached to these minutes.

6. Neighbourhood Plan - Struan Coupar

Many, hopefully most, of you will know that following the public meeting held on 10th April we entered a period of consultation prior to submitting the Neighbourhood Plan to South Hams District Council for Independent Examination and a final vote by the community in a referendum.

Between now and then there are several important things we have to do, or take into account.

The first is to compile and assess the various comments we have received from members of the community. Every one of them will be taken into account when we decide what, if any, changes should be made to the draft before it is submitted. In some cases we will contact people to explain the reasons for policies or the background to them, or to seek clarification on comments they have made.

When we have completed that exercise we will publish a full list of the responses we

have received, and we will incorporate both the responses and our consideration of them into the final Plan. We do that because it is essential to demonstrate that in shaping the Plan we have been guided by the expressed wishes of the community.

The second thing we need to do is send copies of the Plan to various statutory bodies that may have a legitimate interest in our Plan if it affects things for which they are responsible. Those bodies include Natural England, Historic England, the Environment Agency, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Devon County Council and SHDC.

The government has paid an expert to carry out what is known as a Health Check on our draft Plan. The purpose of that is to let us know if we should make any changes in order to anticipate any problem points that might be raised by the Independent Examiner. The result of that check was received yesterday, and we will be reviewing it next week with the aid of an external consultant.

The government is also funding a full Environmental Assessment that will take ten weeks to complete. It is possible that the outcome of that may involve making changes to the draft, though we are hoping any would, at most, be minimal.

South Hams has a copy of the Plan, and a copy of the Health Check, and is likely to add its own comments.

I can't say exactly when the Independent Examination and Referendum will take place, but the first is likely to be around the end of June or middle of July, and the referendum some weeks after that. One way or another we should have the protection of a Neighbourhood Plan in place by the autumn.

Now, if there are any questions I would be happy to answer them.

7. County Councillor's Report - Julian Brazil

Not been a good year at Devon County Council due to the austerity measures. Council Tax had been risen by 2% with a further 3% for Adult Social Care. There were massive issues to address within the NHS with the extra 3% barely covering the increases in the minimum wage.

State of the roads, namely Totnes Cross, were a huge issue, there is half a million pounds in the budget to resurface the Totnes Cross main road which hopefully will take place in June. Devon as a whole needs £60 million a year just to keep the roads in the state they are in. Its unsustainable and County needs to address this. A new road maintenance contractor had recently taken over from South West Highways.

Schools and School Funding - Devon always has a problem with £290 less than the average education authority per pupil. The CC has overspent on the education budget by 2.2 million. He was aware of a groundswell of anger over funding.

Councillor Brazil confirmed that he was up for re-election at the County Council elections on 4th May, had

really enjoyed working with SFPC and thanked the Chairman for her help. He believed Stoke Fleming was the most resilient of the parishes that he covers. Congratulations and thanks especially to Cllr Coupar for all his work with the Neighbourhood Plan which is the most advanced Plan in the area.

8. District Councillor's Report - (Michael Hicks) read by Judy Talbot (New Clerk)

SHDC along with most other District Councils is still developing action to try to meet budget deficits caused by Central Government funding reductions. However, from a personal point of view, it has to be said that this challenge is no bad thing and has resulted in new thinking and considerable savings running into million in SHDC and West Devon alone. Seeking more efficiencies and additional income from projects like Investing to Earn etc will continue into the future.

A considerable amount of time has been spent, over many months, in developing a new

Local Plan. A decision was made over a year ago to join together with Plymouth City Council and West Devon Borough Council to make our Local Plans a joint effort.

It was a logical way forward as the development aspects of PCC were different from the aspirations of the two rural authorities. The result has been that PCC has accepted many more dwellings into its plan than the other two. Something like 70% of the total calculated Housing Need for the Housing Market Area. The number of dwellings in the rural areas will be significantly lower than would otherwise be the case. The Joint Local Plan, just finishing its Regulation 19 consultation will be ready for submission to the Inspector in a few weeks and will hopefully reach approval by early 2018.

Although I have resigned from the SHDC Executive, I will continue to be involved with the Local Plan until its completion

SHDC continues to be challenged by the number of planning applications received year on year. Currently well in excess of 2300.

As part of our search for improved efficiencies, this year has seen the results of a great many changes to the way we do our business. At first, some of these changes caused difficulties with some of our operational tasks. Telephone answering time, speed of responding to planning queries and enforcement issues, to name but two. It is now true to say that we seem to have turned the corner and these shortcomings are improving. Hopefully, this trend will continue and we are grateful to residents for their patience.

One thing to note. SHDC has continued to provide its core services without interference. This cannot be said of some other Local Government authorities.

As usual, I will be happy to deal with any District problems which can be forwarded via your excellent Parish Council.

Dartmouth Academy - Tina Graham

Dartmouth Academy has involvement with many clubs and societies within Dartmouth and the surrounding areas and also works alongside the four Primary schools within Education South West as well as St John the Baptist School, Dartmouth. We currently have 7 pupils from Stoke Fleming Primary school, who joined the Academy in Year 7 in September 2016. In our current Year 11, 4 pupils came from Stoke Fleming and the previous Year 11 who left in July 2016, we had 6 pupils.

We have a strong link with the Dartmouth Rotary Club. The Academy hosted the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition and were delighted to see Stoke Fleming Primary School progress to the Regional Finals in Newquay.

Members of the Dartmouth Rotary Club are involved in our Reading Buddy Scheme which has taken place weekly over the last two years. Children have enjoyed getting to know the Rotarians and sharing their books on a regular basis.

One of our pupils was announced runner-up in the Intermediate section of the Devon and Cornwall district of the Rotary Young photographer competition. Following the successes of the Rotary Club of Dartmouth's Young Photographer competition held last year, three candidates for the three categories were submitted to the District 1175 (Devon and Cornwall) event.

Miss Chivers, Head of Primary and some of our pupils worked with Dartmouth Green Partnership to create a beautiful flower bed fit for a Queen! The children from Year Two to Year Four helped to design the Royal themed flower bed in Avenue Gardens choosing red, white and blue strips of colour to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

We have hosted many sporting festivals at the Academy promoting the following sports, football, netball, indoor rowing and table tennis, where all local primary schools are invited. We recently hosted a junior tag rugby festival for primary schools from across the region and attended by Stoke Fleming Primary School.

The Academy hosted a Primary Maths Challenge, yesterday, where two teams from Stoke Fleming attended and all the children had a fantastic morning learning Maths skills. We are currently planning an Art & Science day for parents and pupils to attend the Academy and work with our specialist subject teachers.

Developing systems to track pupil progress and map the progress against the Primary schools they came from.

The Academy is involved in various annual events, which include some of the following:

- Lantern making workshops for Candlelit Dartmouth, Nic Perrott, Head of Art, has previously worked with Stoke Fleming Primary School to promote this event as well as develop links and promote the arts. The community workshop weekend for Candlelit is held at the Academy and all primary schools and parents are invited to take part.
- Themed Christmas tree Festival where schools are invited to decorate a tree in St Peter's Church at Stoke Fleming, Nic Perrott and our pupils look forward to this annually as a community event.
- Nic Perrott, Head of Art at Dartmouth Academy Worked at Stoke Fleming Primary School with 3 yr. 11 pupils and years 5/6 on Enigma project in tandem with children visualising the text of war poetry and exploring emotive use of colour. Dartmouth Museum kindly allowed Stoke Fleming Primary school to borrow the replica machine so that pupils could use it as a visual aid to their learning about World War 2; Academy pupils created a superb secret agent project involving computing to create their own codes. Will Holman and Michael Ferris, both formerly of Stoke Fleming Primary School and now in year 11 at Dartmouth Academy, expressed their pleasure at returning to their school, with Michael saying, "It was great fun, but everything seems so small!"
- The trustees of the Dartmouth indoor pool asked the Academy to create some art work to be displayed at the new pool. Pupils, staff and parents worked with mosaic artist, Janet Ventre, to create 3 stunning mosaics based on Dartmouth.

REFRESHMENTS - those present were offered tea, coffee and biscuits

Stoke Fleming Primary School - Paul Girardot

Stoke Fleming Primary School is a smaller than average, 2-11 primary school and nursery serving the semi-rural community of Stoke Fleming and the surrounding area. In contrast to the national trend, pupil numbers in the area are falling (52 children for 112 Reception places in Dartmouth area primary schools) although there has recently been a surge in new applicants to the school. The majority of the children live in the neighbouring town of Dartmouth. The ability level on entry is broadly average. The school currently holds UNICEF's 'Rights Respecting School Award' Level 1 (RRSA).

Stoke Fleming appointed a new Head Teacher in September 2016, following this the school which was previously under the Academies South West Multi Academy Trust has now become part of the larger Education South West Multi Academy Trust. The CEO of the Trust is Roger Pope CBE and the Director for Education who line manages the Head Teacher of Stoke Fleming is Matthew Shanks. (Full detailed report attached)

Stoke Fleming Youth Club - Amanda Gascoigne

This year has seen a number of changes for Stoke Fleming Youth Club.

Damian Corbett stood back from running the Youth Club in July 2016, and the youth club evenings were closed until we 're-launched' in January 2017 whilst the new organising committee formed.

The Youth Club is currently run by David Humeniuk, Jo Squires and Amanda Gascoigne. David has been offering behind the scenes support whilst Jo runs the evenings and acts as treasurer and Amanda runs the evenings with Jo, with occasional support from parents.

The club opens from 6pm-8pm on Tuesday evenings during school term time. We have a membership of around 40 young people, with around 20 of these coming to the club every week.

Over the winter the various video games in the club have been popular, as has the pool table, the Sumo Wrestling Suits, the board games and the bingo machine. We hope to organise an evening of "free running" for our energetic young people in the near future, and are always on the look out for new and interesting things for the young people to try. We have started to become more involved in village activities, and have so far enjoyed making scarecrows for the Scarecrow Trail, and having a go at bell ringing in the church. We plan to create lots of contributions to the competitions at the "Hort and Sport Show" later in the summer.

Behind the scenes, we have been working hard with our solicitors, Beers of Kingsbridge to formalise the building ownership and governance arrangements for the club, the details of which have been lost in the years that the club has been running. We are hoping this will be resolved quickly, and will keep the Parish Council informed once this is complete. This will ensure the future of the club as a resource for the village.

We have also agreed to sign up as members of VOYC Devon. This is the local network of Youth Clubs and provides an umbrella organisation which offers training and support.

The finances for the club are currently healthy, with the weekly subs of £2 per child and takings from the tuck shop covering the day to day running. Hire of the hall for parties and other events has provided a small budget which has paid for the legal work and will be used for repairs to the club over the summer. We will then look to fundraising to continue to improve the club and improve our offer to young people.

There will be a few further changes to the club over the next year. Jo is moving house in July, and Amanda will be having a baby in October. This means that we have put out an appeal to parents to support the club through regular volunteering. Hopefully this won't be a barrier to the club continuing, and we can build on the progress we've made since the "re-launch".

Stoke Fleming Parish Church - Alison Shaw

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church. I was licensed as priest in charge of the Coast and Country Mission Community on 26th September 2016 and my report is therefore largely based on the Annual Report of the church. Let me give you a flavour of your beautiful parish church and all the activities we share, and our thoughts for the future.

We offer: An open building, every day during day light hours. Please, if you don't already, come in for a few moments of peace. We will be making a special focus on prayer from May 25th, Ascension Day to June 4th which is Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. Come and sit for a while in the peace and quiet.

We offer: Weekly Sunday worship, led by either the Vicar or a Reader, always followed

by coffee and conversation. You are always welcome.

A visiting group offering companionship, sustenance, shopping and lifts.

A house group meets regularly for conversation and prayer and an adult confirmation class starts soon. Anyone interested in these would be very welcome. Please speak to me. And if you would like us to pray for you or someone you love, leave a note in church or again contact me or one of our wonderful Lay Readers - Jenny Harris and Peter Barker.

For our local school we offer the exciting 'Open The Book' which children enjoy very much.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact me if you have any enquiries.

We are part of Woodleigh Deanery where Christians from Church of England churches in the area meet to share what we do and we enjoy speakers from leaders in the Church.

Christians Together in Dartmouth and District where we meet together with Christians from all denominations and traditions, learning from each other. We share together in special services and in Mission.

During the past year special services were held in St Peter's for Mothering Sunday, Easter, Rogation, Christian Aid, Sea Sunday, Sing for Joy, Harvest Festival, Remembrance, Christingle and Christmas. Many of you will have volunteered at, or visited the amazing Christmas Tre Festival which continues to go from strength to strength.

There are 46 people on the church electoral roll, so as you can see, a few people do a great deal. We are always delighted to welcome offers of help towards the cleaning, decorating and maintenance of your parish church- the church is there for everyone in the parish. Thank you to everyone who already does that.

We have a great team of organists who support our worship, and people from throughout this community who help in many different ways. An example of this was the involvement and enthusiasm of many, far and near for the refurbishment of the tower and re hanging of the bells.

And what of the future? We would like to be able to meet need where it happens - what, if anything, do you think is missing in the village that we could help with? We also want to share our Christian faith and why it is important to us. Maybe you have questions to explore - we are planning informal occasions for this.

Finance is always an issue - so regular fund raising activities are necessary. In the past year we have met our costs and have ensured that all financial controls are in place and met. Our Sunday congregation are all incredibly dedicated and hard working, but none of us are getting any younger! So, I am asking you to support your parish church, but not just financially, but with your physical presence at services and events. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

As your Vicar, I'd love to know your thoughts and your ideas - St Peter's is your parish church.

University of the 3rd Age - Suzie Dodsworth

U3A stands for the University of the Third Age. We are a self-help organisation of people in the Dart Valley area, including, of course Stoke Fleming, and we provide educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. We aim to meet the needs of those later in life no longer in full time employment.

We hold regular monthly general meetings, together with over thirty active groups plus some additional trips and activities as wanted and organised by members.

University is a bit of a misnomer, we do have specialist groups such as Geology and Classical History but most are in the creative and leisure categories including Archery and Zumba. Members, by sharing their knowledge, skills and experience, learn from each other. The U3A approach to learning is learning for pleasure and there are no accreditation or examination.

Our monthly meetings are held on the morning of the second Thursday of every month (not August) at the Flavel in Dartmouth.

Talks this year:

March 11th - The Story Behind English Surnames -Joslin Fiennes

April 13th - Open Day - opportunity to meet group representatives

May 11th - My Family in China 1856-2015 Peter Brinsden

One important aspect of our philosophy is that we draw upon the knowledge, experience and skills of our own members to organise and provide interest groups that meet regularly, often in each other's homes or in venues like Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

Groups include: Archery, Book Group, Bridge, Classical History, Cryptic Crosswords, Digital Photography, Easy walking, French Conversation, Geology, German Conversation, History of Art, Italian, iPad for Beginners, Knitting, Let's Play Cards, MahJong, Medau, Music, Patchwork/ Quilting, Play Reading, Pub Lunches 'A' and 'B', Scrabble, Singing for Pleasure, Spanish Conversation, Sports Morning, Sunday Lunch Group, Theatre Visit, Trains, Boats and Buses, Walking, Wine Tasting, Writers, Yoga, Zumba

If there is an activity which someone thinks is missing from our list they usually get asked to start a group for it! The teachers learn and the learners teach.

We are an independent body and a registered charity. We subscribe to the umbrella national organisation 'The U3A Trust ' which represents over 1000 U3As in the UK at national and international level. Currently we have 425 members and our subscription is £10 per month, £2 for most general meetings to cover tea and coffee, and groups cover their own costs.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm thanking everyone for attending.

Attached: Stoke Fleming Primary School Full Report (in PDF)
Stoke Fleming Parish Council Statement of Accounts