

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the electors of Stoke Fleming Parish held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7pm

Present Parish Councillors: Struan Coupar (Chairman), Hazel Smith (Vice Chairman), Martin Judd, Michael Barlow, Caroline Martin, Jay Gascoigne, County Councillor Julian Brazil, Katie Franks (Retired and Acting Chairman), Alison Shaw - St Peter's Church, Paul Girardot - Stoke Fleming Primary School, Nicola Perrott - Dartmouth Academy, Mike Simons, Julie Simons, Bill Martin, Barbara Goddard, Juliet Lambert, Nicko Franks, Mary Newman, Teri Larson.
Parish Clerk: Judy Talbot

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The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 124th Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Apologies

District Councillor Michael Hicks, Amanda Gascoigne, Trevor Mason, Joan Mason, Shirley Ruddlesden, Sue Taylor, Cllr Ruth Adams, Cllr Nick Wood, Cllr David Harris, Judith Guard, Anne Bailey, Bob Eaglesfield, Yvonne Hanbridge, Mary Rimmell.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017, were circulated. Cllr Smith proposed, Cllr Judd 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

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen

Although I am no longer the Chairman, I was asked if I would give this report as I was Chair last year. First of all, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and Cllr Brazil and Cllr Hicks for all their support during my tenure as Chair and say how much I enjoyed working with you all. Many members of the Parish are also great supporters of the Parish Council and that is much appreciated and needed. The Parish Council is the voice of the Community and we need your ears and eyes to keep our Parish beautiful and moving forward.

Now to the past year! it was a very busy one for the PC. We welcomed Judy as our new clerk a year ago and I thank you for your guidance and your hard work and the enjoyment of working with you. There were changes in the Councillors: Charlie Wreford Brown resigned in June. Mary Newman in September and Ruth Adams and Michael Barlow were co-opted in October. Most recently Jay Gascoigne and Caroline Martin have joined the Parish Council. The Parish Council is fortunate that there are parishioners who have shown such interest in becoming Councillors and long may that continue. It is a very interesting, challenging and hopefully worthwhile service to the community. The Steering Group which was made up of Councillors and Nick Teage had to cope with the changes in the Neighbourhood Plan which the Chairman will expand upon. We all need to thank Struan for his amazing input towards the NP as without him it would not have got this far. Thank you very much Struan.

The state of the village as far as kerbside weed control was concerned was not up to standard last year, partly due to weather and partly due to SHDC`s staff shortage. There

is now a more streamlined programme in place with a follow up to make sure the kerbsides are kept clear of weeds. Venn Lane suddenly had their trees pruned earlier this spring which was a backlog from DCC's schedule of 18 months ago. We were in the process of getting commercial quotes thinking DCC weren't going to do them so it was a surprise to us! Some more cosmetic pruning needs to be done in order to reshape them. The children's playground refurbishment which was due to happen last year was postponed because of the weather but will progress this year as funding is in place. All the PC assets are carefully checked throughout the year with a detailed annual inspection of seats, bus shelters, notice boards so they are kept in good and safe order. The Parish footpaths were inspected this year and a report sent to Parish Paths Partnership, DCC. The PC was able to provide a skip during July for parishioners' rubbish which seemed successful. Then a Fresher's Fair was held in September when clubs and organisations had stalls in the Village Hall to showcase their 'wares' and introduce all the activities that go on in our vibrant village and parish. Comments were favourable and suggestions afterwards for the future were taken on board but all who attended enjoyed the event.

It was a great relief that the manhole covers were all replaced and levelled with the surface of the road down Blackpool Hill. A parishioner and the PC had been arguing with Highways for a long time about the state of them after a cyclist had died going down the hill and there had been a couple of other non-fatal accidents because of these depressed manhole covers. Judy, the Clerk, is constantly having to report potholes, particularly after this winter but it adds weight to the complaint if individuals can report them too. Parking in the village has been raised as an issue as new yellow or white lines have been painted. Highways have set criteria which don't always match the needs of the village and although the Parish Council explain the situation it is often impossible to reach a compromise. The message we sent out was to be thoughtful of your neighbour and space for emergency vehicles. Another meeting has been set up for the proposal of night landing for the Air Ambulance on the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council's biggest challenge is commenting on planning applications. It was a busy year and controversial at times. The committee inspecting the site is very careful with its judgement which is taken in the best interests of the parish as to what fits in with the surrounding buildings and area. SHDC are the final arbiters and sometimes the PC is at odds with their decisions. However, change has to happen to keep a community moving forward. 106 monies that are levied from the developer are held by South Hams District Council and distributed for the benefit of the community. The Parish Council is being consulted about their suggestions. The PC work with Devon Choice Homes and South Western Housing concerning the criteria for affordable housing but don't allocate the people. However, concerns that anyone may have can be reported to the Parish Council and that can be forwarded to the relevant housing association which has happened this year.

There are projects coming forward and more responsibilities financially for the PC so the precept was raised by £1 in January as Judy will explain. This will help with the rises in payments and allow for increases in maintenance and improvements.

The Parish Council always welcomes you to meetings and if you have any relevant queries please send or bring them to your Councillors and they will try and solve the problem or pass them onto the appropriate authority.

I have so enjoyed being part of the Parish Council and wish you all the very best for the exciting future. The Parish has an excellent team.

5. Financial Statement - Judy Talbot

The Clerk presented a Summary of the Accounts Annual Statement of Expenditure and Income for 2017/18, copies of which were distributed, confirming a deficit of income over expenditure of £3,192.34. This was largely due to costs entailed in completing the

Neighbourhood Plan together with an increase in Maintenance costs. The PC appointed a new contractor for the Children's Playground and there were some one-off maintenance costs for maintaining and repairing the Parish Assets. Further increases in the maintenance/repairs costs of the Parish Assets were reflected in the new Budgetary figures for 18/19 and formed part of the reason for the increase in the Precept by £1.00 per household.

The Clerk confirmed the closing Bank Accounts balance as £28,966.92 and mentioned that grant funds increased by approximately £5,000 due to a Neighbourhood Plan grant of £3,828 and a Highway Maintenance Grant for £2,229.36 which were received in this financial year. A copy of the summary of the Annual Statement is attached to these minutes.

6. Neighbourhood Plan - Struan Coupar

The Stoke Fleming draft Neighbourhood Plan was formally submitted to South Hams District Council on 30th January of this year. After a period of consultation by South Hams with various statutory bodies we jointly agreed on the appointment of an Independent Examiner who will scrutinise the Plan in fine detail to ensure it complies with all the necessary regulations and requirements.

The Examiner is due to start work early in June. Once her findings have been received and any adjustments made arrangements will be made to hold a referendum, in which every elector in the parish will have a simple vote - to accept the Plan in its entirety or reject it totally.

It still may take until September for that referendum to take place.

I don't think anyone could have imagined at the outset that it would take this long to get this far in what seemed as though it would be a fairly simple process. After all, a Plan for a parish of some 500 households could not be that difficult to put together - could it?

The process began four years ago, in early 2014, and for some time it looked as though it could be concluded fairly speedily.

Then bureaucracy took over. Just as we thought we were entering the last lap new requirements would emerge - Strategic Environmental Assessments, Wildlife Habitat surveys, rounds of consultation with stakeholders, draft succeeding draft as consultation followed consultation.

It did not help that the goalposts kept moving. In 2014 we were told to expect to have to plan for around 60 new homes in the parish - not including the big development at Cotton/West Dart. By the time we had finished - delayed by the virtual merger of South Hams with West Devon, and then the development of a Joint Local Plan that included Plymouth as well - the requirement had fallen to around 10.

Four years and more to have to work on the Plan took its toll on those involved in putting it together. At the start, we had a steering group of 22 people. Only six made it to the finish line - Katie Franks, Mary Newman, Nick Teage, Martin Judd, Hazel Smith and yours truly. The rest had fallen by the wayside, as it were, weary of endless rounds of meetings, drafts, re-writings and the rest.

It did get to the point where even we began to wonder if there would ever be an end to it. But of course, there was - finally.

Now, or in the near future, it will all be in the hands of the people of the parish to decide. We hope you will approve, and that our labours will not have been in vain.

Thank you

7. County Councillor's Report - Julian Brazil

Council tax has been increased by 5% - 2% of which has been ring fenced for Adult social care.

There is extra money for potholes etc. but due to the extreme weather there is a large backlog of works the County is working through.

It is hoped the Slapton Line will be opened again in October. A contractor has been appointed and works should begin in the next few weeks once a new planning permission has been granted.

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

Firstly, I apologise for my non-attendance this evening, which I'm afraid was unavoidable. South Hams District Council continues to struggle, like many other councils, from financial pressure due to the reduction of government funding. We have considered a number of ways in which council can either reduce costs or increase income but this becomes more and more difficult as we have continually promised that frontline services will be protected. We will carry on looking for ways of supporting the services we provide.

I thought at this meeting that it might be interesting to give you some facts and figures about what we actually achieve. I have to say I found some of them quite surprising.

In the year 2017 -2018 SHDC carried out: -

- 2.5 million household waste collections (I know that there have been a number of missed collections but in reality, these amount to 179 for every 100,000 collections made)
- 2520 planning applications
- 1200 playpark inspections
- 630 food premise inspections
- 590 planning enforcement investigations
- 45,000 online transactions
- 145,500 calls handled
- 502,900 disabled facilities grants awarded
- 80,000 abandoned vehicles investigated
- 330 tree inspections made
- 350,000 passengers and vehicles carried on Dartmouth Lower Ferry
- Salcombe Harbour managed
- The list goes on and on.

It has been a pleasure to act as your District Councillor for the last three years and I will continue during 2018.

REFRESHMENTS - those present were offered tea, coffee and biscuits.

Stoke Fleming Primary School - Paul Girardot (please see attached report)

Dartmouth Academy - Nicola Perrott

As is now the norm 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 have extremely strong links with the Dartmouth Rotary Club through our Reading Buddy Scheme which has been successfully running for the last three years. This feeds into our whole school literacy programme which culminates in a draw for a Kindle reader for those who have made the most effort with their reading. This occurs at one of our regular celebration assemblies which are busy events often involving community groups. We have recently had interesting and visually stimulating presentations from the Chair of Education on the Mayflower Committee and from the Dartmouth Sea Cadets. Our links with the Rotary Club also involve the annual Food Festival, the Young Chef's Competition and the Young Photographers Competition, which we are proud to say we "swept the board" at this year. Pupils from the whole Academy either are, or will be, involved in creating a book for the Mayflower project as well as a large sculpture to be permanently sited on the Embankment of Dartmouth, a pilgrim looking out to sea.

Year 5 have participated in an exciting project which is focused on protecting orchards in the UK. Children have looked at how orchards are used and have changed over time and studied wildlife which can be found in our local orchard on College Way in Dartmouth. To find out more about how you can support our local orchards please go to <http://www.orchardlink.org.uk/>.

This links to our exciting Forest Schools work where pupils learn many outdoor skills while being very aware of their impact on the environment.

We have hosted many sporting festivals at the Academy promoting the following, football, netball, indoor rowing and table tennis, where all local primary schools are invited.

The Academy is again hosting a Primary Maths Challenge on the 8th May involving a team of four from Stoke Fleming involving developing Maths skills. This is always a dynamic, fun filled day with a great response from the pupils.

We have had highly successful Art and Design days involving local primary schools. Stoke Fleming pupils, AND their staff members, created personalised mixed media compositions based on Identity with a strong literacy focus. We are very proud to have the support of Miranda's Fund, a charitable organisation run by the family of Miranda Benzies to support the Arts, through this we have enjoyed a story telling project with strong Music and Drama elements, different art workshops, including workshops with year 7 from artist, Kate Marshall and a memorable event involving year 8 skyping with pupils at schools in Syria and Palestine.

We like to keep track of the successes of our ex pupils and are proud that George Bakewell will soon begin his degree at Cambridge; he thanks our Maths teacher, Mr Rule, in enabling him to achieve this success.

We also congratulate another ex- pupil, Craig Keenan, a young artist in London, on his recent highly successful solo show where he sold a number of his pieces and Ellie Glanville on her First in Paleontology. Stoke Fleming resident and ex pupil of Dartmouth Academy, Tilly Perrott-Pitcher is taking her finals for her Law degree and already has an unconditional offer for the Law Practice Certificate, the equivalent of a Masters for a career in Law.

We consider educational trips to be highly valuable and after the huge success of our Borneo expedition are now embarking on the planning for a trip to Nepal!

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 (Stoke Fleming) pupils look forward to this annually as a community event.
- Summer Exhibition at the Flavel Arts Centre which includes Art and Design and Photography.
- Participation in the St Saviour's Craft Fair.
- Regularly changing exhibitions at the Doctors Surgery and at Sainsbury's.
- Participation in the Food Festival as well as the Young Chef's Competition.
- Performing at the Dartmouth Music Festival.
- Hosting a festive and fun Christmas luncheon for Dartmouth Caring clients.
- Offering a wide range of opportunities, including foreign and national trips, to pupils during Challenge Week in July.
- Some of our primary age pupils enjoying a residential learning a wide range of new skills through outdoor activities.

Stoke Fleming Parish Church - Reverend Alison Shaw

On behalf of St Peter's Church, I am pleased to make this report to Stoke Fleming Parish Council. Since last year's meeting the church has continued to serve the people of Stoke Fleming through prayer and action.

Prayer:

By remembering the village, its joys and sorrows, week by week in our worship services. During Lent, by beginning 'prayer walking' areas of the village, asking God's help and blessing.

Action:

Services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals place the Church at the heart of the village - an institution, alive and loving - which is there whenever the village needs us.

Our Lent study course run over 6 weeks in the Village Hall, An evening of cake and chat in 'What really matters to you', and most recently the well-advertised Rogation Service in which participants walked and prayed around the church and surrounding land.

Involvement in village events such as Hort and Sports, Rowcroft fundraisers, activities planned and run by the wonderful FOSP, Charitable Ladies, CHSW, the Scarecrow Trail, primary school events and regular assemblies through 'Open the Book', and the Christmas tree festival.

As Vicar, I would like to thank the Parish Council for its interest and support and would like to stress that St Peter's is your Parish Church - please use it-

as a place of quiet and contemplation
as a place to remember important life events
a place to join with others in music and word

a place to learn and to discover more about God's work in the world
a place just 'to be'.

Thank you.'

Reverend Alison Shaw.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm thanking everyone for attending.

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