



Cllr Judd asked why these 46 crimes are not recorded on Facebook and Cllr Harris agreed that Kingsbridge Police seem to be more active on social media. PC Richardson stated that 47% of all crimes are screened out anyway by the central team and that Kingsbridge have far greater numbers of response officers with 15 PC's and three Sergeants.

Cllr Harris confirmed that there is now a notice from SHDC on the abandoned car on School Road stating that it will be removed in 14 days.

A member of the public suggested a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme within the village as there does not seem to be anything in place at present. Clerk confirmed that she will look into it. Councillors thanked PC Richardson for his attendance and report for the Parish.

#### **419. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Brazil confirmed that full Council will be meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October with Cabinet meeting the week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> October so will report back more fully thereafter.

The two main issues at present are that Meg Booth, previously acting Head of Highways, has now become Head of Highways. Also, Lisa Edmonds replaces Adam Keay in Highways as our main point of contact.

The other issue is that settlement from Central Government has been made regarding Education funding for children within Devon giving an increase of £22 per child. This means that each child is now £268 per child worse off than other areas of country compared with a previous allocation of £290 per child worse off. There is a still need for fairer funding within the region as the County has other issues like the more complex transport needs for children to school.

Cllr Bond raised the issue of constraints within the funding criteria for the Bugford project. This is a Highway Maintenance funding grant to resolve the ongoing flooding problems at Bugford. Clerk to check how long the grant period extends.

#### **420. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Firstly, Cllr Hicks gives his apologies for his absence tonight. Unfortunately, he has a weekly standing appointment so he has arranged to alternate between commitments. If there are any issues raised regarding the District Council, Cllr Hicks will be happy to sort out on receipt of an email or telephone call.

Cllr Hicks reports that SHDC is increasing its activities following the summer recess although this summer has been busier than usual with the proposed merger and the search for ways to improve income bearing in mind the continued reduction in Government funding.

The Council have started the annual Budget discussions which will last until early into the New Year. These will attempt to close the budget deficit and the aim, as always, is to do this without any reduction of frontline services. This gets increasingly more difficult.

With regards the merger proposal, despite the misleading stories which have been circulated, there is significant support from residents who have understood the complete picture. The consultation ends on Friday of this week and decision day is not far away.

On the Planning front, SHDC are continuing to receive high volumes of new applications and enforcement issues continue to cause concern especially with rising volumes of new alleged breaches.

#### **421. COMMUNITY (a) Reported problems**

Cllr Smith reported the fencing along Bird Walk which is getting progressively worse on both sides now.

There was a metal post with a footpath sign on it where the Bird walk and drive to Old Stables divides. It has rusted out. Small footpath finger post or yellow arrow could be on another post just to avoid walkers going down to the Old Stables. Cllr Wood to look into.

We now have permission from the occupant of no.7 School Road to put the proposed new community noticeboard by his fence & hedge. Mary Newman to contact the Housing Association and will come back in due course.

The Ladies toilet door is rotting – to continue to monitor.

Cllr Harris to cut Old Road hedge as walkers are now in the middle of the road.

Thanks to Richard Yabsley and Alan Pook for all their gardening services within the Parish.

### **(b) West Dart development**

Cllrs Franks, Judd and Coupar attended the meeting at Dartmouth TC a few weeks ago with regard to this proposed development. It was thought that Dartmouth TC were also of a similar view regarding elements of the development. However, it appears they are generally in favour of the increased housing due to a potential requirement for school places at Dartmouth Academy and a declining population in Dartmouth.

Cllrs to get back in touch with David Gent (Planning & development at Dartmouth Council) regarding the quota of needs for the affordable housing element and to see a Housing Needs survey for the area.

### **(c) Coleridge meeting**

John Tucker and Simon Wright (Leader & Deputy Leader) at SHDC spoke at the recent Coleridge meeting in which they put forward proposals about the potential Council merger. Cllr Franks attended along with approximately 25 other Councillors from other parishes. There were many questions about finance and it was felt that not all budgetary figures had been set out clearly. A vote had been taken with a resounding majority opposed to the Council merger.

### **(d) Council Merger**

Cllr Smith reported back on the SHDC meeting with regard to the potential merger. SHDC highlighted the positives such as economies of scale, few redundancies, savings on travel. However, many questions were not answered well and it wasn't clear what would happen to the two existing sites. The consultation ends on 8<sup>th</sup> October with a vote by 31 District Councillors to go ahead on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Cllr Brazil confirmed that an extra cost of £3m would result from West Devon collapsing financially at which point central government would have to step in.

All Parish Councillors took a vote with the unanimous majority of six present being opposed to the merger. The Clerk to write back to SHDC consultation to relay the voting outcome for Stoke Fleming.

### **(e) School Road development**

Cllr Franks gave a brief update on the background to the School Road development to date. Letters have been received asking if the PC might consider the eligibility of the outline planning permission granted here and potential appeal process.

Cllr Brazil stated that he had never heard a parish council win a judicial review over a district council. The cost implications could amount to £20k and if the appeal is successful there will often be a re-submission taking into account any outstanding issues. The field has now been

passed as fit for planning so it is thought to be highly unlikely that central government would approve a dismissal.

Cllr Smith expressed her wish to not be part of any appeal process. A vote was taken with all in agreement not to take on the appeal process. The PC is happy to support others to do so and can make a representation accordingly.

Further correspondence had been received in relation to second homes within the Parish. Discussion ensued about the St Ives' High Court case in which a proviso states that applications for new housing must be their primary residence. This is also contained within Malborough's Neighbourhood Plan. However, there is nothing to support that statement within the proposed Joint Local Plan. It was agreed that the PC should focus on the proposed new developments on Rectory land and West Dart.

**(f) Christmas Tree Festival**

Details pertaining to the sponsorship of a Christmas tree by the PC were confirmed by Councillors. Clerk to send back forms detailing the proposed name for the PC's tree this year at the Christmas Tree festival at the Church.

**(g) Fresher's Fair**

A number of responses and suggestions have been put forward by various groups who attended the Fresher's Fair on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed generally that more publicity needs to be carried out next time with the possibility of holding it earlier in the year. All were in agreement that this event be held every two years.

**422. ROADS & TRANSPORT**

**(a) Reported problems**

None

**(c) Blackpool Hill manhole covers**

Clerk has now received a final response from Highways saying that they do not intend to carry out any works along this stretch of road. They have confirmed that the covers are not utility ones and that the yellow lines sprayed around the covers are most likely from a resident not DCC.

Cllr Judd confirmed that the depth of the covers is greater than 40mm which is the criteria by which Highways will carry out remedial works. Cllr Judd and Clerk to write to Highways requesting their photographic evidence and asking them to confirm the other criteria within their safety manual. Should the response not be positive then the Clerk will go down the formal complaints route.

A member of the public has also offered a suggestion that location and details of covers can be found on the website of the British Motorcyclists Federation.

Cllr Brazil has also now emailed senior personnel within Highways to try and gain resolution to this matter; to progress at meetings next week.

**423. MAINTENANCE**

**(a) Bus shelter – Sportsman's Arms**

Nigel Bryant to confirm a date to start works on the bus shelter at the Sportsman's. Clerk to contact him to look at fixing roof shingles at the Deer park shelter as well.

**(b) Gate onto playing field**

Thanks to Cllr Harris for the new post on the gate going into the Playing Field.

#### 424. PLANNING:

##### APPLICATIONS

###### **The Stables, 1 Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NU**

2880/17/FUL Householder application for change of use from householder to habitable accommodation

###### **East Farwell, Farwell House, Rectory Lane, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QB**

3128/17/HHO Householder application for demolition of existing 20th Century extension, formation of enlarged new opening, internal alterations to Farwell House and proposed ground floor extension to East Farwell.

###### **East Farwell, Farwell House, Rectory Lane, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QB**

3129/17/LBC Householder application for demolition of existing 20th Century extension, formation of enlarged new opening, internal alterations to Farwell House and proposed ground floor extension to East Farwell.

##### DECISIONS

###### **Land off School Road, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0PR**

1554/17/OPA Application for approval of Outline Planning Permission (all matters reserved except for access) for the development of 13 no. age-restricted dwellings and 6 no. affordable dwellings to be accessed via School Road.

Conditional approval 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

###### **Greenswood Barn, Lower Ash Farm, Blackawton TQ6 0LR**

2187/17/FUL Application for profiled sheet roof following granted consent for Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house.

Conditional approval 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

###### **Farwell House, Rectory Lane, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QB**

2265/17/LBC Listed building consent for proposed schedule of works to repairs to the roof

Conditional approval 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

###### **Overseas House, Overseas Estate, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0PJ**

51/1580/14/F Amendments to previous approval

Conditional approval 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

###### **Woodbury Farm, Lane past Woodbury Farm, Norton TQ6 0NF**

2643/17/ARC Application for approval of details reserved by conditions of granted listed building consent 0570/17/LBC. Discharge of condition approved 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

##### ENFORCEMENT CASES Current enforcement list updated.

#### 425. FINANCE

##### a) BANK BALANCES

Santander	£13,617.77	Statement dated 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
Lloyds Bank	£21,596.10	Balance at 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

**b) RECEIPTS**

None

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Harris seconded that the following cheques be approved for signature. All were in agreement.

<b>c) ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID</b>	<b>£</b>	
Nick Roberts	47.50	Shelter cleaning
Barry Morris	40.00	Website administration
Hannah Abraham	34.00	Toilet block cleaning
Miss J Talbot	330.55	Clerk salary
Katie Franks	23.20	Fresher's Fair expenses
Grant Thornton	120.00	Annual Return fee
Stoke Fleming Village Hall	84.00	PC meetings
Evergreen South West Ltd	204.00	Grass maintenance
Stoke Fleming Parish Council	41.00	Flower tub
Information Commissioner	35.00	Data Protection registration
Keith Ellis	68.00	Bus shelter works
Phil Bond	16.00	Fresher's Fair food

**d) Santander account**

A further letter is required from the Clerk to confirm her address and details as the main point of contact for future statements. To complete forms for all signatories also.

**416. Matters Arising**

A discussion ensued about the co-option of two Councillors to the PC. Four applicants had been interviewed and Cllr Franks gave her view. A consensus of opinion was agreed upon as to which two should be appointed – Mr Michael Barlow and Mrs Ruth Adams.

Cllr Franks to write to each one and the Clerk to send through the relevant forms for completion and their signature.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

The next monthly meeting of the PC will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 in the Village Hall at 7pm.