

**STOKE FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL**

**Locum Clerk: Helen Darch, Homer Park Strete TQ6 0SJ**

Email: [clerk@stokefleming.org](mailto:clerk@stokefleming.org)

**MINUTES**

**A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 6.30 pm**

Present: Councillors    Struan Coupar                      David Harris                      John Belli  
   Marion Holmes                      Jojo Szota

District Councillor Helen Reeve  
Locum Parish Clerk  
Mr T Moseley

**215. APOLOGIES – Cllr Handley, Cllr Brazil, Cllr Elliott**

**216. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous in-person Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 had been circulated and read. Cllr Szota proposed and Cllr Holmes seconded that the minutes be accepted. The Planning site minutes from June were also received and accepted.

**217. MATTERS ARISING – None**

**218. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None**

**219. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Councillors had received a letter drafted by the Chairman in response to one from a Dartmouth town councillor on planning matters. Councillors approved the letter to be sent out. The report from Stoke Fleming School was received and noted.

**220. COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Councillor Brazil was absent so a report was not given.

**221. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Cllr Reeve updated the meeting on the waste collection contract. There was a significant decrease in complaints about missed collections. Cllr Szota commented there were still some collections being missed. It was also noted the bins on the Playing Fields were still not being emptied. Cllr Reeve said she would chase this and feed back comments to South Hams District Council [SHDC]. Cllr Reeve noted the need for the contractor to have a robust waste collection plan in place when visitors come over the summer.

SHDC will soon launch a climate initiative with ‘co-cars’ and ‘co-bikes’ i.e. shared electric cars and bicycles. It is not known whether these will be available in rural areas. There will also be a survey into climate change conducted by SHDC.

Cllr Reeve also mentioned SHDC will ask parishes whether or not they want to retain strimming by SHDC. There is a need to trim where this aids visibility on the highway but it can be done so that most grass is left wild. Blackawton PC has adopted minimal strimming with just edges strimmed and the rest left wild. Cllr Harris observed strimming was a bit ‘hit and miss’ at the moment.

The meeting was also informed that Hilary Bastone [Dartmouth Town Councillor and SHDC councillor] will join the Slapton Line Partnership. This will be to foster economic aspects of the work of the committee.

**222. PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**

Two CVs had been received from individuals interested in the councillor vacancies advertised. One individual was unable to attend but the other, Mr Tim Moseley, was present. Councillors unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Moseley onto the Council.

**223. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

- (a) **Proposed new car park.** A report had been circulated before the meeting on progress made since the June meeting of the Council. Following a meeting between Cllrs Coupar and Elliott and Mr Richardson of Strongvox about the School Road development the possibility of a contribution by Strongvox towards the cost of the car park, in addition to the existing s106 agreement pertaining to the development had been discussed. Cllr Coupar and District Councillor Reeve had since had a meeting with Alexis Huggins of SHDC on s106 matters, including agreements regarding the developments at Deer Park and Little Cotton as well as at School Road. The outcome of these discussions had been communicated to the owner of the land which is the proposed site of the car park.
- (b) **Bird Walk Signs.** Cllr Handley had sent a report before the meeting. The signs for the Birdwalk were ready for collection on payment which was made on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

**224. COMMUNITY**

- (a) LukeTom had completed the website updates, which will enable the review of its contents and structure to proceed, with a view to increasing its value to the community.

**225. ROADS & TRANSPORT**

- (a) **New speed signs.** A quote for £1,961.67 plus VAT had been received for one Vehicle Activated Speed sign (VAS) but not circulated so councillors had not seen the documentation. Resolved: the Chairman and Cllr Holmes be permitted to approve the quote under delegated powers provided it was within the agreed budget.
- (b) **Road and Snow Wardens.** Cllr Handley's report noted he needed to talk with the Blackawton snow warden on what was involved.  
Cllr Handley reported that the Blackawton linesman had been approached but he was too busy to take on any more work though happy to give advice on what was entailed in his work.

The Rights of Way officer at DCC was still to reply on the footpath repairs. Cllr Handley will follow that up. .

**226. MAINTENANCE**

- (a) **CCTV.** No meeting had been held so there was nothing to report. A meeting is planned in August.
- (b) **The Inn Theatre Company summer show.** Councillors asked about public liability insurance and who would be responsible if a visitor had an injury. This applied to the events being held over the summer. It was agreed that a meeting with the event organisers should be arranged, to ensure that all necessary details are attended to.
- (c) It was noted there was a large hole in the middle of the pitch on the playing field and someone had tripped on it. The Council had been informed by email. Cllr Harris said he would deal with the matter.
- (d) **Pathway repairs.** Cllrs Handley and Coupar had met to look at the bridleway and other problems with footpaths that require attention. Cllr Handley will utilize the available grant funding toward some of it and ask Rights of Way to deal with the rest.

- (e) **Parish Assets condition review.** A report had been circulated before the meeting. The condition of parish seats was discussed. Councillors questioned whether Devon County Council was responsible for control of the vegetation around the seats on the A379. Terry Hallett does some of it but not all.

Cllr Harris to review whether work to the bus shelters has been completed. The payment listed for July to be held subject to this report.

The British Legion seat needs cleaning. Cllr Harris thought a parishioner had claimed the seat/land around the seat. Resolved: to check the Land Registry for title. Resolved to confirm with Cllr Brazil who was responsible for the vegetation around the seats. Cllr Reeve offered to check this at SHDC.

The noticeboards were discussed. Those in the bus shelters need to be replaced. The noticeboard at the Post Office is too small to take all the notices sometimes required. There is a requirement for a noticeboard at Little Cotton, perhaps by the care home.

- (f) **Electricity meter box.** This has been repaired and a smart meter installed so there is no need to access the meter to read it. It just needs to be screwed together. Keith Ellis will be asked to do that.
- (g) **The Pavilion.** This is a substantial asset and needs to be cleaned along with the toilets, which are closed at the moment. There will be s106 monies from the Deer Park development which could be used for improvements to the pavilion and the playing field generally. Councillors will consider how it can best be used.

## 227. CLIMATE CHANGE

**Sustainability.** A report by Cllrs Szota and Belli had been circulated before the meeting. This listed ten action points. Cllr Belli asked for support for the initiative and it was resolved to sign up to the proposed action points. There will be an audit of parish verges to review the policy for strimming and sustainability. Stevie Rogers [Dartmouth Green Partnership] will meet with Cllr Elliott and/or contractors to undertake a review of the parish lands. Cllr Harris will get in touch with her. Cllr Reeve commented Blackawton had produced a map of land to cut and schedules using a sustainable approach and this was quite complicated to do.

## 228. ACTIONS REGISTER

The Chairman will review this following the meeting.

## 229. PLANNING: APPLICATIONS

### **1647/21/HHO - Homeleigh, New Road, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NR**

Proposal: Householder application for extension & alterations to existing dwelling **Resolved to agree to the need for an extension but object to the roof terrace.**

### **1670/21/PDM - Barn at Thorn Farm, Venn, Dartmouth, TQ6 0LF**

Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (Amended site address) Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q(a+b))

### **1503/21/FUL – Development Site at Sx859483, School Road Stoke Fleming**

Proposal: Erection of 20 dwellings (incorporating 6 affordable homes) with access, landscaping, parking, public open space and associated works. The parish council supports the application. It has noted that in Section 7, page 24, of the Planning Supporting Statement, Strongvox refer to 'a

contribution to Leisure and Open Space requirements, if still relevant'. The parish council consider that this is still relevant and should be retained.

**1874/21/TPO - The Old House, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NX**

Proposal: T1: Acer - Fell and remove due to poor condition and location. T2: Acer - Overall crown reduction by 2m due to lack of cohesion between two main stems and tree location on top of bank. T3: Acer - Overall crown reduction by 2m due to decay, stem inclination and location of tree. **Resolved to approve.**

**3780/20/TPO - Ravensbourne Lane, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QR**

Proposal: T1: Eucalyptus - Fell for safety reasons; tree has honey fungus at base, is growing at an angle and is too dominant for garden. T2: Beech- Fell; tree is dying.

**2402/21/TPO - Castleton, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QS**

Proposal: T1: Beech hedge - Crown reduction by 3m to increase light to neighbouring properties Castleton

**2456/21/TCA -9 Stoke House Gardens, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PE**

Proposal: T1: Yew - Remove dead branch at 1.5m from ground level on East side, crown lift to 5m from road level. T2: Sycamore - Remove dead limb at 2m from ground level on East side, remove 2 limbs at 2.5m from ground level on South East side to increase clearance over road. T3: Holm Oak- Overall crown reduction by 3m to free BT and power lines, remove split limb at 1.5m from ground level on East side.

**OTHER DISCUSSED**

**2461/21/FUL.** Provision of an agricultural storage building. Land at Strawberry Valley Dartmouth TQ6 0NB.

**2104/21/FUL.** Demolition of agricultural building and construction of new residential dwelling following Class Q approval. Barn adjacent to Woodbury Farm Norton Dartmouth TQ6 0NF.

**2448/21/LBC.** Listed building consent for replacement of existing asbestos sheets with traditional 3-inch corrugated tin. Ashbourne Farm Bugford TQ6 0LT.

An application on Phase II of the land at Little Cotton is likely to be submitted soon.

**DECISIONS**

**0479/21/VAR - Land adjacent to Townstal Road West of Dartmouth**

Proposal: Application for variation of conditions 18, 19 and 20 of planning consent 2609/19/VAR and 15\_51/1710/14/O (to allow additional uses of building merchants, retail or hot food takeaway to be constructed on the employment land). **Decision: Conditional approval.**

**ENFORCEMENT CASES** Current enforcement list update.

**230. FINANCE**

<b>a) BANK BALANCE</b>		
Lloyds Bank	£17,575.69	Balance at 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021
Savings account	£12,376.38	Balance at 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2021
<b>b) RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£</b>	
Stoke Lodge Hotel- Birdwalk	£2,500.00	29th May 2021
Interest Savings Account	£0.10	9 June 2021
<b>c) ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID</b>	<b>£</b>	
<b>BACS payments:</b>		
Louise Soothill-Ward	£154.05	Clerk's salary – 15 hrs.
Keith Ellis	£386.00	Assets Maintenance
Barry Morris	£50.00	Website administration

Village Hall	£520.47	S137 Grant, Library lease renewal.
Saunders Signs	£25.00	Birdwalk signage x 2
Ian Tomlinson Support	£7.60	MS Office 365 monthly licence
EDF	£20.61	fee
Mrs H Darch	£185.31	Electricity - Pavilion
Terry Hallett's Gardening Services	£643.00	Locum Clerk payment June 2021 June and July strims and cuts.

The report was received. Resolved to accept all payments except under 226(e) Cllr Harris to confirm whether all works had been completed for the Laurenjade Ahearn bill £260 prior to release of payment.

**231. FURTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman updated the meeting on the recruitment of a replacement Clerk. Cllr Holmes and he will be interviewing candidates on Friday and next week. It was agreed there would be an overlap for the locum and the new clerk.

The Chairman and Cllr Holmes will be arranging to meet with the Hall committee on COVID measures going forward after July 19<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting closed at 7.35pm.**

The date of the next meeting of the Parish Council:

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm**