STOKE FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL
Clerk: Sharon A Whelon
Email: clerk@stokefleming.org
A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on
Wednesday 7th October 2026 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7pm.
MINUTES

The following Parish Councillors were present at the meeting of the Parish Council:
Cllr David Harris (Chair), Cllr John Belli (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley, Cllr Tilly Crowther, Cllr Belinda Duffy, Cllr John Potter
Also invited: County Cllr Julian Brazil, District Cllr Simon Rake, Clerk S A Whelon
Members of the public may raise any points or matters that they wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council in Public Question Time via email or letter to the Clerk 48 hours in advance of the meeting at clerk@stokefleming.org. For the purposes of accuracy the meeting will be recorded.

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Keith Duberley, District Cllr Simon Rake, Cllr Bella Johnston.

77. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 2nd September 2026, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES. Were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as true and correct records

78. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Parish Councillors are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether any items within their Register of Interests should be updated. Cllr Moseley – item 82a.

79. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME No public present.

80. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report.

81. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (sent via email)

- LGR was scrapped in Devon as announced on 16th July. Devon's Councils plan to work together to form ideas to go to government with their own proposals.
- The prospect of an elected Mayor for Devon and to the 'mayor-lite' Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) is highlighted.
- There is a consultation (running to 28 October) on Plymouth becoming a member of the CCA, thus remedying its decision to pull out when the CCA was founded. The CCA has a limited remit, but this change is a key step in the move towards a Strategic Mayoral Authority.
- Such a body would unlock more funding from government and allow decisions on how that funding is allocated to be made much more locally and be informed by much greater local knowledge than we currently get from Whitehall and Westminster.
- Both DCC and SHDC have now adopted the new National Scheme of Delegation for planning applications. This will mean that only a very narrow sub-set of applications will be eligible to be called before the planning committee, with the rest decided by officers or the Secretary of State. SHDC as the Local Planning Authority is putting systems in place to try and mitigate this, but the overall effect is still one of a whole layer of democratic oversight being stripped away.
- Parish Councils will still be able to comment on applications in the usual way, and it will be important to bring any that you have particular concerns about (or indeed, enthusiastic support for) to my attention as early as possible so that I can discuss with the officer.

82. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) Proposed new car park.

i. Report from Sub-Committee. Cllrs Moseley, Belli and Potter met with Adam Benns (Architect) at Mill Lane to discuss feasibility of a Car Park on part of BT site. Main access via existing gate to field would require extension of public highway, issues of cost and planning approval from Highways and further negotiations with land owners. It was proposed that this is not a feasible option. Access to part of field would need to be via BT site entrance. It was proposed that Adam Benns to prepare sketch with two options for entrance via existing BT main gate to take to pre app meeting and any possible further discussions with BT. Estimated cost for preparatory work £350. The impact on neighbouring properties for any basic area was discussed at length. Emphasis would be for occasional parking for functions. Council also discussed alternative potential option of upgrading current school car park for all hour usage.
Majority Agreed. (One abstention.) Action: Sub Ctee

83. FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING sub-committee report

84. COMMUNITY

a) Voice updates- Council were given a colour reproduction of what future colour copy of The Voice might look like. It was noted that The Voice are proposing a colour rendition bi-monthly rather than ten copies per annum as per existing. Cllr Belli reported that he had been approached by resident at Little Cotton requesting copies to be available to their residents. Cllr Crowther volunteered to investigate a waterproof dispenser in situ at Little Cotton and

to request Premier Inn for an available space for copies of The Voice available to residents and to guests staying at the Premier Inn. Cllr Belli to discuss production and distribution issues with The Voice management. Action: JBe/TC

b) School wildlife pond project – request for labour assistance. Cllr Moselely connected school with Loam Rangers.

c) Cllrs Crowther and Johnston will decorate tree at Christmas Festival.

85. ROADS & TRANSPORT

a) Slapton Line update. No activity. Funding for road is due in the autumn. Torcross has received fencing and rocks for shoring up – scheduled for mid October.

b) Request for dropped kerb at the entrance to Bidders Close by the Telephone Pole/Junction Box and the Parish Hall Bus Stop. Cllr Moseley to investigate. Clerk to forward original email to council. Action: clerk/TM

86. MAINTENANCE

a) Broken bench in park. Actioned for repair. Action: DH

b) Email re pathways and vegetation (JBr). Clerk to put advert in Voice for volunteers to tackle weeding. Action: clerk

Cllr Duffy offered to assist Cllr Harris with weeding and vegetation clearance. Action: DH/BD

c) Assets inspections update – Cllr Crowther to send inspections to clerk. Action: TC

d) Playing field concerns – anonymous letter

i. Contractor use of robot mower - sensor is constantly monitored within vicinity by contractor, no issues have been reported.

ii. Gas bottles left in field – Clerk to include in terms and conditions for future hirers to remove gas bottles immediately from location after each event. Action: clerk

iii. Prickly bushes in biodiversity area – indigenous species are encouraged in the biodiversity area, prickles naturally occur. Wildlife are encouraged and given priority in this reserve.

e) A local parishioner has kindly offered to repair the broken wood cladding on the petanque shelter.

87. COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER

88. PLANNING: Noted.

APPLICATIONS

a) Reference: 2249/26/HHO
Proposal: Roof extension, alterations to dwelling and new raised terrace
Site Address: Barra, Overseas Estate, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PJ
b) Application Number: 2275/26/HHO
Location Address: Honeysuckle Cottage Church Road Stoke Fleming TQ6 0PZ
Proposal: Demolition of existing rear extensions and replacement with full width single storey rear extension.
Status: Within Consultation Period
Application Type: Householder Application
c) Reference: 2232/26/FUL
Proposal: Erection of outbuilding for use as a dog grooming business and office (partially retrospective)
Site Address: 40 Barton Way, Dartmouth, TQ6 0FL
d) Reference: 2466/26/TCA
Proposal: T1: Bay - reduce to 1.5m agl.
Site Address: Bay House Dartmouth Road Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NU
e) Reference: 2465/26/TCA
Proposal: T1: Magnolia - reduce canopy next to Rectory Lane by 1.5m, raise canopy height in driveway to 3m AGL. T2: Cryptomaria - remove limb on E side at 1m AGL growing into Rectory Lane. T3: Beech –lateral reduction over neighbouring house by 2m. T4: Holm Oak -crown height reduction to 3m AGL over Manor Court parking area. T5: Sweet Chestnut - remove x2 x limbs at 3m AGL on S side over neighbouring driveway. T6: Beech – lateral reduction on N side by 1m AGL.
Site Address: 2 Manor Court Stoke Fleming TQ6 0P
f) Reference: 2531/26/HHO
Proposal: Removal of existing garden room & construction of garden room with associated landscaping
Site Address: Underhill, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QY
g) Reference: 2205/26/VAR
Proposal: Removal of condition 3 (occupation of property) of 2424/20/VAR
Site Address: The Lodge, Hillfield Village, Hillfield, TQ6 0FA

h) Home Bargains update – Teams meeting suggested by representatives. Invitation in person to a future parish council meeting preferred. Clerk to contact. Action: clerk

i) Email - Premier Inn Hotel - Violet Drive - Dartmouth - inappropriate lighting scheme. A privet hedge would solve this issue. Clerk to email with this suggestion. Action: clerk

DECISIONS

a) Application: 2407/26/TEX
Proposal: T1: Ash - Evidence of ash dieback through whole crown. Several limbs over public footpath. Fell.

T2: Cupressus - Removed cracked limb at 4m agl on SW side. T3: Ash - Removal of deadwood over public footpath. T4: Ash - Removal of deadwood over public footpath.T5: Sycamore - Removal of deadwood over public footpath. T6: Sycamore - Removal of deadwood over public footpath.
Location: Farwell House, Rectory Lane, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QB
Decision: Grant of Exemption
b) Application Number: 2014/26/TCA
Location Address: Stoke House Gardens Stoke Fleming TQ6 0PE
Proposal: T1: Holm Oak – reduce to 5-6m monolith, Ganoderma fungus present, significant bark loss. T2: Holly – fell, limited canopy, extensive deadwood.
Status: Approved
Application Type: Works to a Tree in a Conservation Area
c) Application Number: 2190/26/CLP
Location Address: Development Site At Sx 862 483 New Road Stoke Fleming
Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to determine if proposed works approved under application 1910/22/FUL can be carried out beyond the application expiration date
Status: Approved
Application Type: Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Use
d) Application: 2285/26/TCA Works to a Tree in a Conservation Area
Proposal: T1: Cherry Blossom Tree Prunus Serrulata - Completely remove tree, it is dead and shedding limbs
Location: Stoke House Gardens, Stoke Fleming
Status: No objections raised
e) Application: 2466/26/TCA
Proposal: T1: Bay - reduce to 1.5m agl.
Location: Bay House, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NU
Status: No objection
f) Application: 2465/26/TCA Received: 2 September 2026
Proposal: T1: Magnolia - reduce canopy next to Rectory Lane by 1.5m, raise canopy height in driveway to 3m AGL. T2: Cryptomaria - remove limb on E side at 1m AGL growing into Rectory Lane. T3: Beech – lateral reduction over neighbouring house by 2m. T4: Holm Oak - crown height reduction to 3m AGL over Manor Court parking area. T5: Sweet Chestnut - remove x2 x limbs at 3m AGL on S side over neighbouring driveway. T6: Beech – lateral reduction on N side by 1m AGL.
Location: 2 Manor Court, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PG
Status: No objection

89. FINANCE

a) BALANCES at 30th September 2026:

Treasurer's account: £29,405.27
Savings account: £25,731.49
95 day notice savings account £70,722.06

(£60,732.95 allocated to ear marked reserves for specific projects)

b) PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL AND RECEIPTS

For Payment	FP/DD	Reason	Amount	VAT
Clerk Salary	FP	salary - inc backpay 1/4/26 £119.70	882.95	
HMRC	DD	NI & Tax	69.89	
Stoke Fleming Village Hall	FP	Room booking August	19.00	
Laurenjade Ahearn	FP	cleaning bus shelters	50.00	
Service Charge	FP	Lloyds Bank	4.25	
British Gas Lite	DD	Electricity Birdwalk	24.77	1.18
British Gas Lite	DD	Electricity Pavilion	20.43	8.51
J&S Cleaning	FP	Toilet cleaning School Rd + materials	245.40	40.90
K Ellis	FP	Bus shelter maintenance & repair	1190.00*	
Arccas	FP	Grounds Maintenance play, field, village, paths, verges	432.00	72.00
PKF Littlejohn	FP	2025-26 external audit	252.00	42.00
Pennon Water	DD	School Rd toilets water Apr - July	191.58	13.96

TOTAL			**£3,382.27**	**£178.55**
Remittances		Precept 2nd payment	24,195.00	
Total Remittances			**£24,195.00**	

*Grant contribution of 50% from Cllr Brazil's locality fund. Action: clerk

c) Conclusion of audit 2025-26 - Clerk explained comments on audit. Noted and **approved.**

d) Remembrance wreath to be ordered. Cllr Harris to contact clerk as soon as possible if needed by post.
Action: DH

90. Clerk's Report. Urgent items must be submitted to the clerk prior to the meeting.

. **Date of next meeting 4th November 7pm**

Meeting closed: 8.08pm