

# STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Andrea Phillips

1 Hyne Town, Strete, Dartmouth TQ6 0RT clerk@strete.org.uk 01803 770786 www.strete.org.uk

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC) HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2015 AT 7.30PM

### PRESENT

CLlr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); CLlr Harry Fenton (HF); CLlr Kate Gill, Vice-Chairman (KG); CLlr Malcolm Hollis, Chairman (MH), CLlr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge & Stokenham Ward (JB)  
CLlr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF)  
Mrs Andrea Phillips – Clerk; Seven members of the public

**0615/1 APOLOGIES** - CLlr Louise Newman (LN)

**0615/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** Parish Councillors were invited to declare any unregistered or other interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. They were also reminded to consider whether any items within their Disclosable Register of Interests should be updated. None were declared.

**0615/3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 MAY 2015**

The above minutes were AGREED as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**0615/4 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

MH reported that he had received an email from the Clerk who wishes to resign from her duties. Former Chairman and Councillor, Bryan Seymour, was in attendance and made a speech and presented the Clerk with a bouquet on behalf of councillors past and present to thank her for over 15 years of dedicated service to the Parish. A sub-committee had met a prospective candidate for the post and it was agreed to appoint Sall Winstanley as the Clerk who will take over the role on 14 July. Andrea will be retained until the end of August to facilitate the change.

**0615/5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

This item was postponed.

**0615/6 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

RF also thanked AP and reiterated Bryan Seymour's comments.

SHDC: RF was in Follaton House today, Planning has a new team which is moving forward and Enforcement is progressing, they will continue to improve and meanwhile Plymouth and Cornwall councils are assisting with the workload but there is a national shortage of planning officers. New roles at SHDC are being settled into and he is confident things will improve.

**Footpath:** The progress of the new coastal footpath is taking shape but it is unclear at the moment whether it will be open and useable by the Celebration Day on 9th July.

**Kings Arms:** The application for the ACV on the Kings Arms has been approved and accepted; the pub is a much needed asset for the village and especially with the new footpath section opening. RF was asked if the partially dismantled section of stone walling would be rebuilt before the path was opened, RF thought probably not in time.

**0615/7 CO-OPTION** of two councillors

There were three applicants for the two vacant positions; Ralph Clark, David Ferguson and David Rothwell. Ballot slips were distributed followed by a secret ballot. Councillors voted 3:1 to accept a sealed vote from LN.

David Rothwell and Ralph Clark were duly elected by a majority vote.

**OPEN FORUM** - The meeting was closed for members of the public to speak.

**Verges:** Bryan Seymour asked if the bank opposite The Laughing Monk could be trimmed back as it was getting difficult for pedestrians to pass with brambles and nettles encroaching on the road.

**MH replied he would see what could be done.**

**Fuge Road:** Mark Wall of Lower Fuge Farm raised the matter of the road condition from Fuge Cross to Snails Castle. The road surface is extensively potholed and deteriorating badly and DCC have said they do not have sufficient budgets to carry out resurfacing as it is past repairing. This road becomes the sat nav alternative route when there are problems along the A379 which is exacerbating the problem. LN will take this matter up along with JB.

**Kings Arms:** Ian Coates (IC) reported that the Facebook Page had 450 hits in one day when updates were posted. They had received an email from a potential tenant of the pub who wanted it be known why their application failed. They were experienced previous landlords and were made a good financial offer from Heavitree on the tenancy for the Kings Arms. However, upon inspection of the premises, it was in a filthy state inside. The interior had been left in an appalling condition; it is dirty and covered in mould on all surfaces. The previous tenants literally walked out without closing or cleaning the premises down. They estimate it would take around £5k-10k to clean up and install equipment needed to open and no tenant would be willing to do that on top of other financial commitments to Heavitree just to be able to open. Lots of positive comments have also been received on the Facebook page, none from Heavitree. The group requested Heavitree to open the pub for a week when the footpath opens but Heavitree refused. RF wonders if Environmental Health would be interested in this as also rats and other vermin have been seen in the very overgrown gardens the more especially as it is now an ACV. Mark Wall suggested that the community might be willing to help in getting it open, it is thought this might be possible and should be considered.

**0615/5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

**Bus Routes:** JB reported that the 93 Sunday route had been reprieved and will remain on the timetable.

**Footpath:** JB congratulated the PC on their perseverance in keeping this section high on the wanted list for so many years; it's a great achievement for a small PC.

The meeting was closed to enable the public to comment on this matter:

**Fuge road;** JB was updated on this road problem with Mark Wall and he confirmed that he would be pleased to investigate. He will talk to Adam Keay, as Jim Morrison is off sick, Chris Brunt has taken over. JB advised that he will always attend meetings of this type when a parishioner arranges to see DCC or anyone else with a problem, such as this road. Unfortunately, there has been 7 years of no repairs done to this road which has brought about the situation.

The meeting was reopened.

**Children's Centres:** it now looks like Kingsbridge and Dartmouth centres will close although the services are to remain, but let JB know if anyone is likely to suffer as a result of this.

**Swimming Pool:** RF reported that following the Executive Meeting today at Follaton House, it would appear that SHDC will release the pledged funds if DTC or the Indoor Pool Trust takes ownership of the land.

**0615/8      MATTERS FOR DEBATE:**

**Kings Arms:** covered above.

**Housing Needs Survey:** RF reported that Alex Rehaag will attend and present the outcome of the HNS at the next PC meeting.

**South West Coastal Footpath:** MH reported that he would like a presentation of 'Strete' at the opening, when Jonathan Dimpleby will be present. It is not known at this moment whether the path will actually be completed by this time and available to walk down, or whether it will be a preview from one or both ends. The SWCPA and the AONB are organising the day so the format is not known at present or whether the press are to be involved.

**0615/9      REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

To receive reports from councillors on their attendance at meetings or reports:

Coleridge Association Meeting 17.6.15 – MH has paid the annual subs at the meeting – to be reimbursed. Lots of topics were covered at the meeting:

- a. Concerns over contractors being able to park legally on double yellow lines without a permit. The Dartmouth annual park and ride ticket being increased from £21 to £100 from July.
- c. The need to raise awareness of increasing cases of dementia.
- d. The luncheon club has finished in Strete due to lack of helpers, whether this could be continued in the pub or the chapel could be investigated.
- e. Stokenham may have 100 new houses, this is not yet confirmed.
- f. Beesands has a problem with camper vans parking long term on the sea front.
- g. Charleton road speed awareness is not popular, Strete could consider it.
- h. Stoke Fleming PC are midway through a Neighbourhood Plan and this has dominated the PC.
- i. AONB – Robin Toogood is back in post following long term leave.
- Transport LN – Tony Crawford attended the transport meeting; minutes will be circulated when received.

**Village Green (HF)** - HF reported that the conservation area is now marked out with posts, to avoid being mown. Unfortunately the buddleia was damaged by a neighbour; the police were involved, and now needs to be recultivated. Chris Ellis is to trim the areas when needed. Another small area by the gate is to be left for wild flowers. A 1m strip around the edge is to be cut only annually, except in the first length around Sea Barton where dogs dash to making it difficult to pick up. John Gilbert is to continue to cut the main grass area. Areas around the well, the benches and along Vicarage Lane is to be cut regularly, it is thought that perhaps he could do the bank up Totnes Toad also? The perimeter hedges are to be cut bi-annually.

The Village Green signage was discussed and it was agreed to leave the gate sign as it is at present until it deteriorates but the interpretation board inside the field should be removed, HF volunteered to carry this out.

**Play Park (KG)** – there are two problems at the moment, the speed of grass growth and cat poo in any plain earth. The grass will be cut again this week but it is a lengthy task to cut around all the equipment carefully and it really needs removing each time. MH has now had a quote for £45 per visit to cut and mulch the grass, this was discussed. It was agreed that the play park needs to be kept in a good short condition to make it useable and it may be difficult to do this for £45. KG proposed that we go ahead with the large equipment repair to make this unit safe and useable, the PC does have part funding of this expenditure. JB also has a Locality Fund that hasn't been applied for; the Clerk suggested this could be considered for the replacement of goal posts which appear to be quite costly. HF proposed that we accept the £45 grass cutting quote for the rest of this season as a trial and discuss again at the end. Both proposals were agreed unanimously.

**Transport - LN** – emailed report – hedge in front of the bench at the top of the village could be lowered possibly, some road signs obscured down towards Strete Gate, ivy on the bus shelter getting worse, LN has offered to attend to this and request access and inspected milestones are fine.

#### **Planning - vacant**

**Tourism** – Strete Gate litter does not appear to be being collected regularly, although was done eventually, to be monitored. There are still joyriders in Strete Gate car park and dog fouling is still problematic. The Clerk has been in discussion with Sam Deeley at SHDC who has visited the beach twice regarding dog mess. She spoke to an owner of 5 dogs who did appear to be picking up and she will monitor the area regularly. She is also to walk the bridleway and consider if needed, sites for an additional dog bin or two, to be funded by the PC. She has also produced some signage to display. Also a new area to consider shortly will be the new stretch of coastal footpath, whether a bin would be needed at the village end. Sam is to now liaise with HF on the matter. A church group has applied for permission to hold a large party on Strete Gate Beach, the PC had many questions on the suitability of this, SHDC are to advise the applicants and the beach will be inspected afterwards by IC.

• **Business Development and Finance** – MH has done draft budgets, tabled to councillors.

**PC Website** - www.strete.org.uk & PC email clerk@strete.org.uk: (Editor – Clerk) – no items to report.

## **0615/11 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS**

New applications to be considered by the PC at this meeting: It is to be noted that the PC response should fall into one of four options:

- 1) Parish Council have no objections
- 2) Parish Council object on the following planning grounds (space below for reasons)
- 3) Parish Council do not object but wish to make the following comments or seek the following safeguards. (Planning officers will take the view that failure to provide the requested safeguards will mean that the Parish Council objects - provided it is a planning matter and is in the opinion of the case officer a safeguard which is reasonably related to the development.)
- 4) Parish Council supports the submission.

**54/1306/15/F** - Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new two-storey dwelling, works to existing garage and associated external works - Way Park Cottage, Hynetown Road, Strete, Dartmouth TQ6 0RS. Case Officer – Ben Gilpin. A site visit is to be arranged, MH is to talk to BBH to gain access on 19.6.15.

**Applications brought forward from a previous meeting:** None

### **SHDC DECISION NOTICES RECEIVED:**

Applications GRANTED by SHDC - None received.

Applications REFUSED - None received.

Applications WITHDRAWN - None received.

## **0615/12 FINANCE**

The Clerk supplied the Chairman with the bank balances as follows:

	Current Account opening balance	£9,401.48
	Adjustments as below	32.97
	Precept	4623.72
	Hedge cutting	123.00
	Donation from Shows Unlimited	300.00
	Total	£14,481.17
1331	Annual Insurance payment to Aon – paid for note	319.60
1332	Strete Parish Hall	32.00
1333	Andrea Phillips Clerk's salary	223.17
1334	CML Toll Strete Estate – Play Park annual rent	1.00
1335	SHDC – annual play park inspection fee and insurance	120.00
1336	Mrs Hegenbarth – Xmas tree light electricity	15.00
1337	M Hollis – reimbursement for Coleridge Assn subs	20.00
	Sub Total	730.77
	Closing balance	£13,750.40

Petty Cash opening balance	£57.01
Less expenses 12.00, stationery 6.49, stamps & postage 16.56 = 32.35,	
closing balance	£21.96
Reserve Account opening balance – plus interest of £1.28	£10,258.06

It was proposed and AGREED by all present to authorise payments as enumerated above.

- i) Balance adjustment - a payment made to the PC in the sum of £33 was minuted in March 2014 but not added into the balance and a cheque was listed at 3p less than it was actually for – therefore a further £32.97 is to be added to the carry forward figures.
- ii) The group Shows Unlimited which was based in Stoke Fleming but also had Strete members has recently closed its doors and the balances have been distributed to local causes. The clerk passed on the grateful thanks of the PC for their kind donation towards play park repairs.
- iii) The Annual Accounts 2014/15 have been audited by Mr Nick Shepherd and were duly approved by the PC. The Audit Commission Return together with the Annual Governance Statement were approved and signed ready for submission to the Audit Commission.
- iv) The clerk reported that she is to complete a VAT refund request before her term ends, to be paid directly into the PC current account in due time.
- v) AONB village name signs. The AONB estimate a cost of between £250 - £350 for three replacement signs to include fitting. It was agreed to go ahead with these, with them being fitted as soon as possible.
- vi) Contribution towards the Coastal Footpath celebration, it was discussed and agreed that in addition to the hall hire, which the PC have agreed to fund, they will also contribute £100 towards the food. Clerk to organise with the Coastal Footpath Association who are arranging the day.

**0615/13 POINTS OF INFORMATION**

The following items will be available in the mail bag to be circulated. None received.

**0615/14 CORRESPONDENCE**

- i) Mr J Hansell – re: further planning application

**0615/15 REPORTS** No items were raised.

**0615/16 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 JULY 2015 IN STRETE PARISH HALL AT 7.30PM.**

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 9.30 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Malcolm Hollis (Chairman)

Dated: 16 JULY 2015