

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Helen Darch

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC) HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 17 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr Kate Gill, Chairman (KG); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr John Vallance (JV); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF); Mrs. Helen Darch – Clerk

PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public attended the meeting but advised he was attending as an observer.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil had sent a brief report by email. He commented there was not much to report over the Christmas break. A quick update on the Slapton Line: Slapton Parish Council has met with Highways and he understood the outcome of these talks, to do with traffic management, would be discussed at the Slapton Line Partnership (SLP) meeting on 25th January. Following the SLP meeting it may be interested parties will want to explore options further but they would need to see the outcome of the meeting on the 25th January. KG informed the meeting that the SLP meeting will take place from 10am to 1pm on the 25th.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Foss wished all present a happy new year. He has decided to take the planning application for 8 Crestway [1940/18/HHO] to Development Management Committee as the equitable way to deal with this, and noted the committee doesn't always agree with officer recommendations. KG stated the PC will send a representative and it is likely Mr. Shepherd [7 Crestway] might attend. Attendees to contact Kathryn Trant to confirm attendance.

RF informed the meeting that there was a five-year supply of land in the Neighbourhood plan (NP) [*the Five-Year Housing Land Supply Position Statement for Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon was published in December 2018*]. He also counselled to make sure all green spaces were included in the NP as another parish had omitted one green space but unfortunately the plan had to be passed as it stood or else it wouldn't have passed review by a planning inspector [independent examiner].

RF also mentioned the Communities Together Fund which had closed to new applications on 14th December but would reopen in the autumn to new bids.

The issue of the public toilets and means of funding them continues. This is also dealt with at item 0119/10.

As mentioned already, the SLP is meeting on Friday 25th January. Business in Slapton is lobbying hard to see the back roads improved. However along the Gara Mill road some residents are concerned about traffic and the works planned to the road to improve surfaces and the passing places. JV noted there were a number of those expressing concern who didn't live on the Gara Mill road. RF affirmed the works were going to take place and KG commented as the road is a County Highway it is going to be used.

0119/1 APOLOGIES - Cllr Julian Brazil; Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr Mark Hanson (MH).

0119/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2018

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

0119/3 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. **None were declared.**

0119/4 CLERK'S REPORT

Highways matters. The Clerk contacted DCC Highways to log a request for the gully sucker to visit the village and Lisa Edmonds (LE) explained the schedule for visits to the village estates and the main road. The machine would not normally do non-scheduled visits but the next visit to do the A379 should be mid-2019 and the village estates also in 2019. RF advised if there is a genuine reason then it is worth asking again.

It was requested the Clerk contact Lisa Edmonds and ask her to deal with the rubbish which accumulates opposite the Laughing Monk.

LE had also asked the Clerk if the parish wanted to elect a road warden. This volunteer post would be responsible for minor works such as patching, keeping the buddle holes clear and hedge work and have training to do their job.

It was suggested that IC might want to look after the buddle holes or if he couldn't perhaps a roads warden could be recruited.

The snow warden for Strete is DR and LE asked to confirm if any salt stores were needed. DR had confirmed already with the Clerk that there are sufficient stores for this winter. He will fill the three bins in the village. JV asked for salt supplies for the bin by him [Gara Mill].

Letter re laurel hedge. The Clerk drafted a letter to the owners of the laurel hedge and sent it to KG, IC and LN to review. The letter asks the owners to cut the hedge back to the fence as it induces traffic particularly buses to move out into the road. RF advised that Highways has a legal right to cut back greenery that impedes the highway.

It was resolved that IC takes this up with the owners.

Greenspace contract. The Clerk had drafted a letter to Greenspace to summarise what works they do for the council. A schedule of works was sent to JV just before the last meeting. The Clerk asked if councillors were happy with the contract. **It was resolved the Clerk would circulate to councillors the draft letter which has a schedule of works and put the item on the next agenda.**

Grants and funds. At the last meeting the possibility of grant funding was discussed in particular for the fencing work in 2019. As noted by RF the **Communities Together Fund** closed in mid-December 2018 for bids but may be open again after the district and county budget process is completed. Another initiative the **Pocket Parks Plus** allows community bodies in alliance with their LA to bid for small sums up to £25k for refurb to refurb or create new park spaces (£15k). The deadline for this one is 25th January to bid and end of March to spend the monies. The PC would have to provide the match funding of 30% plus and another body do the main bid. **It was resolved the Clerk approach Cathy Aubertin to find out about grants suitable for the fencing works.**

0119/5 CHAIR'S REPORT

17.01.19 The last month does seem to have been one of peacefulness even the weather seems to have been relatively kind. As a consequence I have very little to report.

Slapton Line – It is anticipated that the snagging work is likely to be completed by the end of next week. The repositioning of the sign posts is likely to be one of the last things to be completed. The Slapton Line Partnership meeting is still on track for 25th January.

Strete Gate Car Park – It seems that although the parking meter has been repaired the season of “Doughnutting” has sadly returned. So we will watch this space.

Coastal Footpath Signs – I have contacted Jane Beech who has forwarded the information about collapsing footpath signs to the correct department.

Quote - *“In terms of the maintenance and management of existing National Trails like the South West Coast Path, this is undertaken by the access authority Devon County Council (with grant aid from Natural England). I will forward your email on to my access colleague at Devon County Council so that he can take this forward.”*

Banking – The pantomime of the last few months has just about come to the end of its run – thankfully.

We look forward to year of fruitfulness and peacefulness!

An unashamed advert – the Parish Hall is beginning to thrive again with our aim being to hold at least one ‘fun’ ‘fund’ raising event here every month. This month Curling returns and it is tomorrow night so if you fancy an evening out and haven't bought a ticket see Monica in the Post Office tomorrow. Refreshments will be available.

The Chair's report was received.

0119/6 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

No planning applications or matters were received. As noted under the District Councillor's report, 8 Crestway [1940/18/HHO] will be considered by the Development Management Committee and interested parties are to contact Kathryn Trant at SHDC. Blindwells [3400/18/FUL] is yet to be considered and this is considerably delayed.

0119/7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

NP Report for PC – January 2019

A379 Traffic Speed Survey

The traffic speed survey near the proposed access to Cox's Farm Field identified an 85% speed percentile

southbound of 24.4 mph and 21.9 mph northbound. The information was passed to Richard Jackson of Devon Highways to provide details of the required visibility splay for safe access onto the A379 from Cox's Farm Field. The requirements are 27m northbound and 33m southbound as well as reducing the height of the privet hedge on top of the wall heading northbound to 750mm.

Response Report Update

Updated details of the Response Report is available to view on the website.

Policy SNP8 – Revised Wording

Revised wording for SNP8: Housing Development Site at Cox's Farm Field following re-consultation comments received including those from SHDC and Historic England relate to the following:-

1. 4.8 – as a result of the changes to the settlement boundary, the site is the most sustainable location for development in the village.
2. 4.9 – the 30% calculation evidence to justify the increase in the number of homes from 12 to 17 based on the affordable housing need over the plan period to 2034 for 5 homes.
3. 4.10 – clarifies the number of car parking spaces in the proposed village car park.
4. 4.11 – clarifies that the two access points between The Plat and A379 are to be connected.

The policy wording confirms that any development should conserve and enhance the Conservation Area and designated heritage assets.

A379 Access – Supporting Evidence

Following a site meeting with Duncan Smith of SHDC it was agreed that supporting evidence detailing the issues regarding access to Cox's Farm Field from the A379 near the Kings Arms car park should be included with the plan. This includes:-

1. A379 traffic speed survey details and the required visibility splay
2. Details of the possible need to re-align part of the stone wall on the north side of the access within the Conservation Area including reducing the height of the privet hedge to 750mm
3. Comments received from SHDC Conservation Officer in respect of the possible re-alignment of part of the stone wall
4. The possible re-location of the electricity sub-station close to the access
5. The need for a developer to address any possible impact on the Conservation Area in a planning application, that would be submitted for approval to SHDC planning department, in the event of the site being offered for development by the landowner

SHDC have confirmed their support for this evidence as part of the NP for inclusion with Reg. 15 submission documentation. However, SHDC pointed out the possible risk of the examiner considering there was insufficient evidence and may ask for more. If more specific evidence was requested arrangements could be made for this to be addressed.

Submission Version of Strete NP

A revised SNP including all the agreed changes was approved by SG members attending the meeting. This has been submitted to SHDC together with the Statement of Basic Conditions, Statement of Consultation, Strategic Environmental Report, and Screening Report for a Habitats Regulation Assessment, Monitoring Framework, Sustainability Appraisal and the Response Report in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 15. SHDC have advised this will move to Reg. 16 and a six-week consultation phase during which they will look to appoint an examiner. It has been suggested that it is likely to take two to three months before the NP is formally accepted.

SHDC have subsequently advised no record of consultation with Natural England can be located in respect of the HRA Screening Report provided by SHDC in July 2017. This has been amended by SHDC and submitted to Natural England with a request to process asap. This requirement is an essential part of the Statement of Basic Conditions. As a result, until Natural England concludes the consultation requirements on this screening report, SHDC are unable process SNP to Reg. 16. This could result in a delay of 5 to 6 weeks.

Hard copies of SNP are to be made available in public places for members of the community to read together with a letter drop prior to the referendum to inform and encourage members of the community to vote in support of the plan.

Consultants On-Going Involvement

Following the submission of the plan for examination by SHDC any comments that may be received from the examiner may require the assistance of Lee Bray to provide an appropriate response.

The NP report was received.

0119/8 UPDATE ON THE SLAPTON LINE

KG noted this had already been discussed [see the reports by both the County Councillor and District Councillor].

0119/9 VILLAGE PUMP

As MH and IC were absent, it was decided to carry this over to the next agenda.

0119/10 SLAPTON LINE PUBLIC TOILETS AND REVISED CAR PARKING CHARGES

Cathy Aubertin had sent an email on 31st December to the three parishes [Slapton, Stokenham and Strete] affected by the consultation into funding of the public toilets at Strete Gate and along the Line. The email proposed replacing the pay on entry charges into the toilets with amended car parking charges. **Parishes were asked to communicate their concerns about the proposals by the 31st January.** The intention is to implement the revised charges in April 2019.

Councillors commented that any amended charges would only be effective if the machines were working and at the moment the machine at Strete Gate is out of order. Also councillors wondered what the distinction was between '24 hour' parking and 'All day' parking.

It was resolved the Clerk would reply to Cathy Aubertin as requested but ask her to note the first point about working machines and clarify the distinction between the two types of parking charge.

0119/11 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

The Clerk updated the meeting on a number of contracts agreed in recent meetings.

Playpark. Works are being done by Peter Tanner who promised to start before Christmas. The latest localities report [14th January] advises that new toddler swings have been fitted and the slab swings removed for repair. The localities manager also sent the Clerk a copy of a report from their insurer, Allianz, which listed a number of issues to do with the playpark. The Clerk asked the localities manager to confirm if the insurer required any additional works to be done and to remind him that the council was getting remedial works done.

This was noted. *Since the meeting the Localities officer confirmed the insurer had identified a number of items that required rectification but were not of immediate danger. Her advice was to deal with these in due course with no time scale for completion.*

Fencing. JW Wicks was contacted after the last meeting to confirm price for the entire works and a start date to avoid nesting in mid-March. They have come back to confirm their quote and a provisional start date of February. RC asked if the works would be supervised and KG suggested that IC would do this as the works were being done next door to his house. **It was resolved that IC would oversee the fencing works taking place at the playpark.**

WIFI. After the last meeting the Clerk rang PlusNet to confirm the quote and installation. However, PlusNet have now informed the Clerk that they could not quote on that basis if they were not sure there was fibre already into the Hall. They could offer an ADSL contract for £18/mth plus VAT and upgrade this once they had a fibre line into the Hall. ADSL will only give 5mbps speed which is probably too little for the downloads needed by multiple users.

After speaking with Plusnet the Clerk then contacted Openreach on 28th December who explained where the fibre ran which is to a cabinet [No 1] on the Hynetown Road. Openreach advised the Clerk to ask for full provision which she did but Plusnet will only offer the lower service until they can get the line upgraded. This was confirmed on 16th January and a quote emailed to the Clerk.

The Clerk went back to EE as the second lowest quote to see if they would agree to a fibre contract and they have agreed to an immediate fibre service but at a price of £46.90/mth plus VAT for 24 months which includes line rental on a BT Business package. Quote valid until 28th January. They have quoted £46 to reactivate the dormant line or £125 if a new line needs to be run in. RC suggested the Clerk approach BT for a quote and LN advised the quote is to match the best quote so far. RF suggested an alternative which is to install an aerial that would pick up WIFI. Actionwest in Kingsbridge had done this for another parish.

The Clerk also informed the meeting she would write to the Parish Hall to give them progress on the WIFI works.

It was resolved the Clerk approach BT for a competitive quote and to see if they will agree to fibre. Also that the Clerk contact Actionwest to see if they could offer an aerial into the building. Finally that the Clerk will write to Strete Parish Hall to inform them of progress on the WIFI installation.

0119/12 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

KG (Chair) Playpark. This has been dealt with under 0119/11.

LN Transport and Roads. Before the last meeting LN had sent the Clerk a quote from John Gilbert for annual hedge cutting costs which was for £445 plus VAT. The works cover the A379 bank and inside the Village Green. LN thought this price might be reduced at some point. **The quote was accepted.**

LN also informed the meeting she would need to visit Philip Knight in Fuge to remind him to cut his hedges.

Finally LN had sent around to councillors an email from a resident in Fuge who wanted to know plans for the Gara Mill road. **It was resolved the Clerk would reply to the email.**

RC raised the possibility of works being done to Strete Gate out of the £600k monies available for works to the Gara Mill road. This is to be followed up with JB after he informed the PC that funding could be made available.

DR Health and Safety. DR has successfully contacted South Hams planners on the listed status of the K6 telephone box. He sent a lengthy email on Monday 14th January to SHDC on what has been done to the telephone box. There might be a charge of £30 for the planning consultation but this will cover what has been done and the intended use of the listed box. RF promised to help. DR has managed to speak to the new owner of Glen Cottage who owns the land where the telephone box stands and has sent an email to confirm what is needed from the owner. **DR to meet with the owners in a couple of weeks when they are in Strete.**

DR also outlined two quotes he had received for a new defibrillator at the Hall. These are £1,644 inc VAT from Blue Box Medical Ltd and £1,857 inc VAT from Primary Care Supplies. The existing defibrillator is on lease from South Western Ambulance (SWA) on a four-year term at £1,800 and under the lease would be updated. The lease has recently expired but councillors have agreed to extend it at a cost of £1,800 over four years.

Under the former quote the defibrillator would be supplied along with one set of pads, a heated cabinet, a four-year battery, and an eight-year warranty but there would be no support offered. Under the existing service with SWA two training sessions a year were offered. It was noted since Hynetown House acquired a defibrillator the one at the Hall had not been used. DR expressed a preference for the existing machine provided by SWA.

The quotes were noted and the report was received.

DR reminded the meeting that he has arranged training for the defibrillator with The South West Ambulance Service at 6.30pm on Wednesday 23rd January at the Hall.

RC asked what was being done about engaging an electrician to install the defibrillator in the phone box and DR informed the meeting that a three-pin socket was to be installed.

IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. IC was not at the meeting but KG spoke on the tree at Firstfield. This tree is a Monterey pine and could achieve considerable girth and height. KG had contacted Savills but the tree is not on Toll land at the moment. Rather it is on Kingsley-Smith land at present. The tree could also constitute an issue if it grows under the road.

RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan. RC had no further comments.

JV Village Green. JV had not had a chance to visit the Village Green.

MH The VAS sign. KG informed councillors that the VAS battery is re-charged at Manor Farm. Due to personal reasons MH had not been able to attend to the VAS machine. it was unclear where the VAS sign was though it was being recharged. **The location of the VAS sign to be resolved.**
Subsequent to the meeting, MH advised that the VAS sign had been relocated to the east side of the Village.

0119/13(a) FINANCE

The Clerk supplied the meeting with a list of cheques for payment

1624 – Strete Parish Hall hires for December [PC and NP] £40.00	1625 – Clerk salary January £233.50
1626 – Greenspace invoices October to December 2018 £152.85 per month, £458.55	1627 – R. Clark (Printing) £23.97

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

0119/13(b) FINANCE

A monitoring report to the year end 31/3/19 had been circulated by the Clerk previously. The latest projection to the year-end gives DR£167.45 at the year end. If the VAT reclaim which was paid into the Business Reserve account is transferred across to the correct account, projected cash is £1,090CR at 31st March 2019. RC requested that Councillors be given the budgets for their areas of responsibility and that the budgets be publicised on the noticeboards. **The Clerk agreed to send round budgets to each councillor which covered their particular responsibilities. The Clerk will place budget statements on the two noticeboards.**

The report was received.

0119/13(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £6,028.48 CR Current Account at 09/01/19, £14,266.44 CR Business Reserve Account at 09/01/19.

0119/14 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence listed on the agenda was noted. Councillors requested that a postbag be devised to circulate mail received between meetings. **The Clerk agreed to institute a circulation list for mail received other than that which is forwarded by email.**

0119/15 REPORTS

Councillors were asked if there was anything else to add but there was nothing to add.

0119/16 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2019 IN STRETE PARISH HALL AT 7.PM.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 8.45 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair)

Dated: 21 FEBRUARY 2019

ACTION POINTS:

Clerk: contact Lisa Edmonds to deal with the rubbish opposite the Laughing Monk; circulate the draft letter to Greenspace which has a schedule of works and put on next agenda; approach Cathy Aubertin on grants for fencing works and on carparking charges to note point on non-working carparking machines and to clarify the difference between two types of carparking charge; contact BT for a competitive WIFI quote for fibre; Actionwest to install an aerial; write to Strete Parish Hall on WIFI works; circulate budgets to councillors and place on noticeboards; institute a circulation list for non-email correspondence; reply to a resident of Fuge who has corresponded on the Gara Mill road.

LN: to visit Philip Knight to remind him to cut his hedges.

IC: to be asked if he would look after the buddle holes; to approach the owners of the laurel hedge re cutting it; to oversee the fencing works at the playpark.

DR: to meet with the owners of Glen Cottage when they come down to Strete.