

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Strete Parish Hall, Strete
Thursday 19th October 2017 at 7pm.**

PUBLIC FORUM - One Member of the public attended.

- A request had been made for a grant towards Music4All. Arrangements for the concert were explained and the charities which the funds raised will support were detailed. Young people are encouraged to be involved in helping at the concert.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. J. Brazil –

- M. Booth has become Head of Highways.
- On 16th November there will be a Devon Highways Day at Rattery 9.30am – 4pm.
- Roadworks will close the road at Chillington for 3 nights after 7pm.
- DCC have now had a final settlement from Government for education which means that Devon is still way behind the national average.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Cllr. R. Foss –

- The consultation for 'one council' is now complete.
- Finance is very tight and adjustments will have to be made. Part of the problem is that SHDC has been well run which is now causing problems because the Council is capped.
- Greylands – A decision has now been made on this application on the basis that the Government has changed the criteria for considering applications DC has to prove why they refuse an application rather than the applicant having to prove their case for approval.

PRESENT Kate Gill (Chair), Louise Newman, Ian Cumberlidge, Ralph Clark, Mark Hanson,
David Rothwell

In attendance: S. Winstanley (Clerk) Cllr. Brazil, Cllr. Foss

1. APOLOGIES –None

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 21st September 2017

It was proposed seconded and *resolved* that the Chair should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. None

4. CLERK'S REPORT –

- Dog bin has been ordered.
- There is still flooding on the Totnes Road. Will check with P. Westlake.
- Members need to consider whether to apply for the TAP fund by the November meeting.
- The Precept will need to be set at the November meeting if there is no December meeting.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

October

The Kings Arms – Hugh O'Rourke has confirmed that the mortgage for the new purchasers of the pub had been granted. Not sure of the finer details but we might be lucky enough to have it open for Christmas!?

Strete Gate Picnic Area – Andy Pratt of Slapton Field Centre together with Jon Grimes of N.E. confirmed that the transfer of ownership has now taken place. Owing to previous problems with overnight camping – the site could well be closed temporarily on occasions to prevent this.

Strete Gate – other – the bullocks have only visited the car park once – no unpleasant raves have occurred – no issues with camping along the wall – the occasional campervan has parked in the car park. I have spoken to a meter attendant who says they do monitor the area sometimes!

Jon Grimes N.E. – SSSI - has visited Slapton Line to assess the condition of bollards etc. He is anxious to prevent the destruction of wild life habitat by vehicles and inappropriate behaviour accessing the area. Up to a point parties and barbeques on the shingle is fine; he does not want anyone setting up camp on the settled areas let alone lit fires or anyone cutting plants, shrubs etc. to take away, nor indeed shingle or stones. If anyone is able to take pictures of such activities which can be verified e.g. dated. He would like to have such proof. If any perpetrator can be identified all to the good.

Slapton Line Partnership – There was a Beach Management Plan Workshop on Friday 13th Oct – a working lunch hosted by Andy Pratt of Slapton Field Centre. Sarah Wollaston attended. There were many options open to discuss - well in excess of 30. It seems even with all those options many were clearly not viable in the long run. I await the formal minutes from the meeting.

AoNB Annual Forum – This was held at Blackpool Sands in The Venus Café on 5th Oct. It was all about promoting green tourism. One item I did learn was why my campers sometimes complain about how expensive the bottled Coke is (£3.00) it includes a deposit of 50p on the bottle. It is essentially meant to deter people from buying Coke in bottles and to buy in cans instead, which are more readily recycled.

Parking along Slapton Line - Still to be resolved.

Blackbird Wood – Was queried last month with regard to its maintenance. I spoke to one of the trustees who is more than happy. It is intended to be a quiet rural area where wildlife and humanity are able to co-exist. There are seats and a picnic table where any visitor is able to sit and contemplate their surroundings. It is the only such place in Strete – where the wild flora is allowed to flourish and the public have rightful access!!

WW1 Beacons of Light 11th Nov 2018 – Bruno Peek has contacted those Parishes taking part with the latest update. It is the promotion material and includes the photograph of our Beacon lit for Her Majesty's Birthday. On Tuesday I received an enquiry from Romsley P.C. in Worcestershire with a request on how to create one like it. Well done Colin for creating it and Ian who lights and manages it for us now.

6. PLANNING:

Application No. 2881/17/HHO - approved

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. Report by Ralph Clark on the neighbourhood plan.

October

- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultation period finished on 6th October. AECOM have advised the Environmental Report should be completed within 3-4 weeks.
- A site assessment is planned to go ahead on Friday 20th October 2017.
This will be completed without access to the site as Strete Estate have advised they will not grant access if the NP policy for occupancy restriction remains part of the draft NP.
Steering Group members are unanimous in keeping this policy which is also supported by SHDC for inclusion in village plans.
Building new houses in villages that may be snapped up as holiday lets, 2nd homes or investment opportunities and not for full time residents, particularly those with lower incomes, is problematic throughout South Hams.
This was expressed recently by Dr Sarah Wollaston, the local MP for Totnes constituency, in parliament to the Secretary of State, Sajid Javid, and also reported in the local press.
If new houses do not have occupancy restrictions the problem of homes for local people in the South Hams will increase.
- A Draft Statement of Consultation has been produced by Lee Bray. This has been circulated to SG members who have been asked to review and comment on it at the next meeting.

8. Proposal to consider quotes for a portable VAS –

- A quote had been received from Westcotec. A further quote is needed.
- Discussion took place about other possible traffic calming including having the yellow warning lines being reinforced and the possibility of having humps along Totnes Road.

9. Update on the Kings Arms – as Chair's report

10. To discuss the Parish Council assets.

The Parish Council assets as reported at present are as below:

8 pieces of play equipment
Goal posts
Footpath fence
Village green – 3 picnic benches
Telephone box
Dog bin
Bus shelter
Notice board by PO
Clerk's laptop and printer
2 grit bins
2 further benches
Defibrillator
VAS

11. To discuss the vacancy arising from Harry Fenton's resignation.

Members are encouraged to consider the possibilities for co-option.

12. COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

- K. Gill (Chair) – Playpark – Report received on small items which need attention. SHDC maintenance team to be asked to quote.
- L. Newman (Vice Chair) – Transport & Roads – Email about work on the road at Snail's Castle received. Last year a small sweeper swept the road. D. Taylor to be contacted.

Road from Orestone to Gara River closed. Highways have said that the road will be repaired. Quotes have been received for sweeping the A379. Discussion took place as to whether the PC should take on the responsibility. To be discussed next meeting.

Estimate for hedge cutting had been received. Property owners to be informed.

D. Rothwell - Health & Safety – Registered as the Snow Warden.

The defibrillator lease is up next year. Quoted £1800 for a 4 year lease.

S. W. Ambulance quoted £1719. British Heart Foundation quote £600 but no cabinet.

Further training on resuscitation training will be arranged this year.

H. Fenton – Village Green - The village green is looking in good health with a wealth of flowers now growing around the edges. I have introduced Red Campion, Foxgloves, geraniums and large thistles. Hopefully, they will now spread naturally around the margins. The five large Bistort shrubs near the gate, are a wonderful food source for insects all summer, now they have been allowed to grow to their full size.

The wood is coming along. The six different types of tree and shrub that I planted have been added to with some local hazel, flowering redcurrant and elderflower. Unfortunately, the strimmer takes its toll and several shrubs have been killed each year by overzealous young chaps strimming.

Eventually, the bracken may become less of a nuisance as the shrubs and trees grow bigger. The Buddleia needs to be cut well back every February.

Richard Soanes has agreed to manage the wooded area.

The picnic benches have proved to be popular with villagers. During some warm evenings both of them were occupied by people enjoying the sea view with a glass of wine or a nice mug of tea. It's a shame the night sky is often spoiled by householders' `anti-burglar` bright outside lights, or the street lights on Start Bay Park.

Dog poo has never been a problem during my tenure of the green; almost all is picked up by the owners. Likewise, there is almost no rubbish; most of the walkers would not pass by a sweet wrapper without picking it up.

There are many users of the village green, I have noticed a welcome lowering of the age group walking on it. There seem to be some younger couples moving to the parish, which is a very good thing.

Greenspace do their job well with little interference from me. Nobody moans about the grass length anymore and the Alexanders are kept to the margins.

The 1 metre wide margin provides a corridor for small creatures to move around in.

Swallows, Martins and Swifts all appreciate the field; they swoop over it catching flies all summer. Because it isn't treated with insecticides or pesticides there is plenty of food for them over the grass and edges.

I have noticed far more birds in the wooded area this year as they are beginning to find more food and cover there now.

Mister Mole has made an appearance recently but only in the bottom corner and he gives the Terriers good sport digging at his holes.

So, in the short term things look good, but I will be very surprised if the field is still a quiet place of nature and walkers in 20 years time! The land is too inviting for development.

Here's hoping otherwise,

All the best to you all,

Bon voyage, Harry.

I. Cumberlidge – The PROWs seem in good shape except for Old Hill which is overgrown.

Strete Gate has been much less of a problem this year.

Smithies Wood has some dead wood which could be removed.

R. Clark – Planning & Neighbourhood Plan – as above
Provided some Christmas Tree lights.

- 13.** a) To approve payment of the following cheques:
1576 - £245.56 – S.Winstanley (Sept)
1577 – £910.77 - Greenspace (6 months)
1578 – £24.97 - R. Clark (to reimburse for NP printing)
1579 - £40.00 – Strete Parish Hall (NP £20)
1580 - £30.00 – Strete Parish Hall (£10 NP)
1581 - £250.00 – Lee Bray (NP)
1582 - £222.79 – S. Winstanley (reimburse for dog bin)
- b) Request for grant of £250.00 for Music4All.
c) Cash at bank – £27,757.00

14. CORRESPONDENCE – None

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16th November 2017 - Strete Parish Hall, 7.00pm

Signed
Chair

ACTION POINTS :

- Clerk**
- 1. To contact Highways re. yellow strips and humps.**
 - 2. To contact D. Taylor re. road sweeper**
 - 3. To contact Heavitree re. JKW**
 - 4. To contact P. Westlake re. flooding**
 - 5. To forward list of property owners re. hedges trimming to L. N.**
 - 6. To contact P. McFadden re. Old Hill**
 - 7. To Contact BHF re. defibrillator**

