

# 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 21 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7.00 PM

### PRESENT

Cllr Kate Gill, Chairman (KG); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB); Mrs. Helen Darch – Clerk

### PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public attended the meeting.

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Brazil as county and district councilor had involvement in both DCC and SHDC budget meetings and had attended the SHDC meeting to table an amendment. For DCC a 4% increase overall was voted in despite £17m less from Central Government for 2019/20, and the Liberal Democrat amendment being rejected.

DCC saw a £53.10 [Band D] increase up to £1,384.29. As last year provision was in the DCC budget for Adult Social Care and council tax bills will have a 1% increase for this element. SHDC also saw an increase on a Band D property of £5 a year to £165.42 for the year and the Police precept saw a £24 increase. JB mentioned if any individuals were affected by the budget measures to let him know. RC noted there had been more younger people move into the village.

JB also advised that the A379 in Frogmore would be closed for [at least] a week from 26<sup>th</sup> February to undertake flood prevention works. This is a DCC flood alleviation scheme which would see a storm ditch constructed and a pipe would be run under the main road.

The recent decision by the Development Management Committee on 8 Crestway [1940/18/HHO] [to reject the revised application] was also discussed. The applicant can appeal the decision to the Planning Inspectorate and has a 12-week period from the date of notice to do so. However, they must pay for this step but may be awarded costs if they are successful in their appeal. Interested parties will be contacted by the Inspectorate if an appeal goes ahead. JB also commented the Neighborhood Plan for Strete will have more effect on planning decisions as it progresses. IC wondered if a revised plan would be better with a ground floor extension rather than upstairs.

RC asked about the £600,000 available toward the works to the back roads [1018/5 et seq]. JB noted this depends and KG explained this is in hand with plans at Strete Gate car park involving Lisa Edmonds and John Fewings. RC then noted the buddle hole just beyond the Fuge turning was blocked up again. JB stated the Community Enhancement Fund had £100,000 available toward these works and Lisa Edmonds knows about available monies.

**The report was received.**

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Foss had given his apologies and no report was received.

**0219/1 APOLOGIES** - Cllr Richard Foss (RF); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Mark Hanson (MH), Cllr John Vallance (JV).

### 0219/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2019

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

### 0219/3 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.**

### 0219/4 CLERK'S REPORT

**Highways matters.** Lisa Edmonds confirmed she will check the drain/rubbish at The Laughing Monk when she comes through next week.

**The laurel hedge.** The Clerk asked if Lisa could have a look at the hedge and give her opinion on what still needs to be done to ensure the highway is not impeded. Lisa advised that Highways won't react until the hedge is out a

metre and pushing cars into the white centre line. She asked if we could let her know the response of the owners to the latest visit. Richard Jackson at DCC had advised the height should be at most 750mm above the wall.

**Resolved that IC offered to visit the householder again and the draft letter would be amended as noted before being sent out.**

**Greenspace contract.** The Clerk sent round a draft contract letter to Greenspace for comments. The Clerk is now notified every time works are done by the contractor. Councillors discussed what the contract should include. **It was decided the contract would commence in April 2019 for the next year and JV would manage it.** 18 cuts had been agreed originally between the council and the contractor and councillors were happy with a schedule of 18 cuts as follows:

July and August 3 cuts per month	April – June, September 2 cuts per month
February/March, October/November 1 cut per month	December/January no cuts required

Councillors also discussed whether the current billing arrangements of £152.85/month average across the year should remain or itemised billing as the contractor was sending notification each time work was done. **It was decided to retain the annual contract figure but pay on the basis of how many cuts are done a month. Resolved the Clerk would draft a contract to Greenspace to include amendments from the meeting.**

Other contractors were discussed briefly. **It was resolved the council is happy with Terry Hallet at £65/time and to request Chris Ellis as and when works were required.**

**Grants and funds.** At the last meeting RF advised the parish approach Cathy Aubertin for grants toward the playpark fence. RF's Sustainable Community Locality Fund was recommended as it has unspent funds in 2018/19.

RC read from The Totnes Times [15<sup>th</sup> February 2019] which noted SHDC will spend up to £520,000 by 2021 on playparks they own before transferring these to towns and parishes to manage.

**Elections.** Parish and local government elections take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. The Electoral Commission has published a timetable for events. **KG asked for a copy of this from the Clerk.** Councillors discussed the need to stand and how vacancies would be advertised. The council has 7 councillors. The Clerk is booked onto an election training course with the SLCC on 6<sup>th</sup> March at £60 plus VAT. **The Clerk will confirm what needs to be done in the next month in connection with notifying vacancies and starting the election process. She will contact the SLCC for advice.**

#### 0219/5 CHAIR'S REPORT

21.02.19. Slapton Line. Is this month's major issue. We shall be discussing four items this evening with regard to the Line and its environs. All items are important and will need extra-careful thought. They are items 8 -11 inclusive: War memorial, parking, toilets, access to the beach and dog poo bins.

**Annual litter picking.** Louise has kindly organised our Spring Clean for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March as you know – you have her email. It would be good if each one of us could recruit at least one other person to join the group. If you contact Louise, I'm sure she will make sure you have the correct gear for the job. This she obtains from SHDC at Torr. Refreshments at mine!

**Strete Gate.** Tidying up at Strete Gate is still on Lisa Edmond's horizon. I reminded her and John Fewings at the Slapton Line Partnership meeting on 25h January last. At that meeting as negotiations are still in progress Vicky Croghan our minute taker was asked to issue the following statement on our behalf:

*Hi all,*

*Following today's meeting; here is the agreed brief statement about the policy status of the Slapton Line:*

*The Slapton Line Partnership is developing a draft policy agreement, yet to be formalised, on the future of the Slapton Line. Once formalised, this information will be shared with the public during consultations later in the year.*

*Kind regards*

*Vicky*

Whilst on Strete Gate I would like to thank Phil Cruse and Ralph for re-instating the parking sign/notice. It looks good and in just the right spot.

**Finally, planning.** We have had a difficult few months. As you know we as the Parish Council do not actually make any decisions – we just advise. We have had one recommendation denied and the second one gratefully granted. We have another close on the horizon with regard to Blindwells.

**Once more an unashamed advert** – its Parish Hall fund raising night again tomorrow. The Games Evening with a Ploughman's supper will be served.

**The Chair's report was received.**

#### 0219/6 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

SHDC reminded parishes on 15<sup>th</sup> February that the consultation will change from paper to online from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Major applications will continue to be sent out by paper but these are limited to [any of] 10 or dwellings, 0.5 hectares or more in area, living space 1000m squared or more, on a site of one hectare or more area.

**Blindwells [3400/18/FUL].** RC updated the meeting on recent correspondence which had taken place between SHDC and the developer/agent in connection with the number of houses on the site, their position and the planner's stance on recommendation. The parish had objected to the plans for the development in November [minute **1118/6**]. Other points were raised on the length of the proposed properties and their proximity to existing dwellings. IC noted the council needed to keep an eye on the plans for this development. RC had written to the planning officer on a number of the points in this correspondence. All documents are on the planning portal. **RC offered to email his submission to all councillors. He also offered to contact RF on this matter.**

RC noted local reporting on affordable housing initiatives and provided a newspaper clipping to the Clerk.

#### 0219/7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

##### NP Report for PC – February 2019

##### Submission Version of Strete NP

The submission version of Strete SNP was submitted to SHDC on 10/01/2019 together with the Statement of Basic Conditions, Statement of Consultation, Strategic Environmental Report, Screening Report for a Habitats Regulation Assessment, Monitoring Framework, Sustainability Appraisal and the Response Report in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 15.

SHDC advised no record of consultation with Natural England could be located in respect of the HRA Screening Report provided by SHDC in July 2017. This was amended by SHDC and submitted to Natural England with a request to check and approve. This requirement is an essential part of the Statement of Basic Conditions. Natural England confirmed their consultation was complete on 04/02/2019. SHDC confirmed the HRA Screening report could be included as part of Regulation 15.

SHDC issued a Public Notice advising Strete Neighbourhood Plan had been received and is subject to a six-week consultation phase commencing 08/02/2019 to 22/03/2019. This is displayed in the two Public Notice Boards in the village and in the Post Office as well as Strete website.

SHDC have contacted the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS) who will aim to make an examiner referral within four weeks.

NPIERS have provided CVs for two potential examiners. SHDC have requested the preferred choice of Steering Group members be advised asap.

Once the examiner has completed the necessary checks a date for the referendum can be confirmed. One month before the referendum hard copies of SNP are to be made available in public places for members of the community to read together with a letter drop to inform and encourage members of the community to vote in support of the plan. It has been suggested that the examination and referendum is likely to take two to three months to complete.

##### Consultants On-Going Involvement

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.**

#### 0219/8 UPDATE ON THE SLAPTON LINE AND PLACING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

The Slapton Line Partnership [SLP] has discussed the new home for the monument once the 2019 anniversary had passed. It is planned to move it before 2020. Stokenham PC does not want to adopt the monument and Slapton PC offered to relocate it across the line up Sands Road. According to RF Slapton PC has applied for planning permission to relocate the monument. The new site landowner is willing to open up the land but only for anniversary dates. RC noted he had stopped looking into grant funding because of these developments. **To clarify with RF what is the latest status of the monument. Also, to find out from Alan Denbigh what Slapton's plans are.**

KG remarked the monument was given by the US military for all the villages that were evacuated. She was also doubtful on the suitability of the proposed site for reasons which include car parking and access by visitors. KG recommended the area up by Strete Gate would be more suitable [*minutes October and November 18 refer*] and councillors commented on a number of factors such as visibility from the main road, existing carpark, distance from the beach and coordination with the Ley Centre on wildlife. RC remarked the site does need to be somewhere around Slapton ie near where it currently stands.

#### **0219/9 PROVISION OF EXTRA PARKING ALONG THE SLAPTON LINE**

A proposal to enlarge the carpark at Strete Gate was discussed. If the monument is moved, its carpark will be lost to the Line. Torcross is too small to open up so the only other carpark area in the area is Strete Gate. IC noted trees would probably have to be cut down for the extra land but KG remarked there was nowhere else to offer up extra land. A field to the right of the lane was cultivated; maybe this could be used. IC suggested the east fence might be extended and then the road widened near the toilet block. This would mean taking out a line of trees.

#### **0219/10 SLAPTON LINE PUBLIC TOILETS AND REVISED CAR PARKING CHARGES**

The Clerk reported on this. SHDC took the responses of the parishes to the Executive on 7<sup>th</sup> February [*minutes 0119/10 refer*]. The Executive agreed the revised charges [per the original consultation] and after Council, there will be a public consultation phase [21 days] from the end of next week. Also, Cathy Aubertin's response to the council's comments from the last meeting are:

- There is a set amount of income that will transfer from the car parking budget to the public toilet budget at the year-end irrespective of what income the machines collect. SHDC are looking at other machine providers as well.
- The 'all day' fee will be in effect a 10-hour tariff so that customers will have a clear expiry time on their tickets.

Councillors asked if the £1 car parking would be available all day or only at certain times. **Agreed the Clerk would ask for confirmation from Cathy Aubertin.**

#### **0219/11 ACCESS TO THE BEACH FROM THE PUBLIC TOILETS**

This item was taken before item 10. Two issues were discussed: the provision of steps and widening the road into the carpark. The damaged steps at Strete Gate need to be replaced [*minutes 1018/5 and 1118/9 refer*] and the existing road widened. DR noted tourism is a factor in particular at Strete Gate and the site needs to be improved.

The issues of replacing the steps and widening the road involve consultation with a number of interested parties and agencies. Thus, The Strete Gate Estate as the owners of the land. Then SHDC, who manages the land on behalf of the Estate, needs to be consulted on whether there is a health and safety issue with the absence of steps and that they are happy with the PC recommendations on the replacement steps. DCC to comment on proposals to widen the road and Natural England on the site overall as it is a SSSI.

IC was concerned that people now use the slippery path and this is dangerous. He recommended the steps be made up as [14-15 steps] pole steps with tannalised wood and a timber frame to suit the SSSI environment. **It was resolved IC will draw up a spec to replace the steps and the three quotes will be obtained for the work. These can then be given to SHDC and the relevant permissions sought from the agencies as above.**

The road is narrow and congested with only 1 car at a time able to pass. **This is a highways issue and DCC need to be contacted to address it. RF could be approached to sort it out.** KG noted large vehicles need to be prohibited from using the site and **Highways could be approached to put an enforcement notice at the entrance.**

RC recommended someone take photos of the site and get landscaping contractors to provide estimates. The intention is to request monies from the district or county councils. He also wondered if some funds out of the £600k for back roads would be available to widen the road here. A number of related issues were also discussed including the installation of a dog-bin which is held in KG's barn. The current red dog-bin belongs to Slapton PC. KG and IC would decide the best place to put the bin. **RC would ask Phil Cruse if he could install this bin.**

**0219/12 VILLAGE PUMP**

MH has emailed to say he would look at removing the greenery around the pump. IC said what was needed was to pick out the pointing and replace broken bricks. Maybe it could be 'heaved' back into place [RC] as long as it is not a health and safety issue. **Resolved that IC and MH would look at this and report back.**

**0219/13 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS**

**Playpark.** Peter Tanner confirmed all works have been done and the goal mouth seeded. KG thought the goal mouth was dangerous with bits of spike. IC thought it was okay and has had spoken with Peter Tanner. The post on the outside is still there. **This was all noted. IC to confirm all works had been performed before payment is made.**

The localities manager confirmed with the Clerk that the report from their insurer, Allianz, which listed a number of issues is not urgent but will have be dealt with over time. **The Clerk offered to copy the report to IC to read.**

**Fencing. JW Wicks has been chased on progress. The works were requested to start early to avoid nesting in mid-March.** They have come back to confirm their quote and a provisional start date of February.

**WIFI.** The Clerk has written to the Parish Hall committee to inform them of our work on this. She has also let KG know as rep what the current play is. After the last meeting the Clerk rang BT given a lead by RC but they will not quote unless there is a postcode to locate the property and get Openreach to run a line in. The clerk also spoke with Actionwest who will do a survey to assess broadband availability COST £42 inc VAT and then recommend whether an aerial is the best route. Correspondence has been copied round. **Agreed that the Clerk would go back to Actionwest to commission a site survey at a cost of £42 inc VAT.**

**0219/14 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**KG (Chair) Playpark. Reported on in 0219/13.**

**LN Transport and Roads.** There was no report given.

**DR Health and Safety.** The defibrillator training was successful with over 20 attendees. The application for consent for works to a listed building for the defibrillator in the telephone box is being prepared. The owner of the land has made contact with DR and it might be courteous to keep the owner informed. RC suggested using the land registry to obtain details for the owner. **Clerk to obtain information from the Land Registry for the consent form.**

**IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate.** Strete Gate has already been discussed. Rights of Way mostly walked except Prideaux Lane to Severns Lane. IC noted buddle holes were not his responsibility but he could take them on. Some of the ditches into farmland haven't been cleared out. Ditches by Philip Knight and Chris Sutton need to be cleared out. It may be local candidates might take this on. **KG suggested an advert in the Shop for someone to take on cleaning out the buddle holes for a small sum.**

The felling of trees at Tallis Rock had caused some concern in the village and IC rang SHDC planners who advised there were no Tree Preservation Orders [TPOs] in place on these trees. Also, they were not in the conservation area so the trees couldn't be protected. IC commented people should be more vigilant about what is going on with trees and seek to put TPOs in place. **RC offered to speak with John Kingsley-Smith about the Monterey Pine [minutes 0119/12 refer] as there is a concern over damage beneath the road if the roots grow down.**

**RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan.** The property 'Abingdon' opposite Landcombe is now for sale as a plot.

**JV Village Green.** There was no report given.

**MH The VAS sign.** There was no report given.

**0219/15(a) FINANCE**

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

1628 – Neo Traffic Data Services Ltd £300 to replace cheque 1623 cancelled	1629 – Strete Parish Hall hires for January [PC, defibrillator session and NP] £60.00
1630 – Kingsbridge Websites £60 annual hosting of website for Strete	1631 – M Hanson repair of fence at playpark £442.69

1632 – Clerk salary February £233.50	1633 – Phil Cruse £147.88 for works to sign at Strete Gate car park
1634 – Clerk expenses to the end of February £13.84	

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

**0219/15(b) FINANCE**

A monitoring report to the year end 31/3/19 had been circulated already. The latest projection to the year-end is DR£717.86 at the year end. If the VAT reclaim which was paid into the Reserve account is transferred across, projected cash is £539CR at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. **RC asked the provision for Lee Bray of £1,500 be taken to 2019/20.**

**Budgets:** The Clerk had sent KG on request examples of different types of budget including that of Salcombe’s precept for 2019/20 as an example of how budgets are allocated across categories rather than individuals and how a budget for the public was drafted. **Resolved the Clerk would send the example of Salcombe’s budget to all councillors with equivalent figures for Strete to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting.**

**0219/15(c) FINANCE**

Cash at bank – £4,609.10CR Current account at 11/02/19, £14,268.86CR Business Reserve account at 11/02/19.

**0219/16 CORRESPONDENCE**

A late letter from the Parish Church on the issue of increased costs for grass cutting and whether the council could assist by increasing our grant to them was discussed. The council grants £200 annually to the Parish Church toward the upkeep of the churchyard. **Resolved the Clerk would write to the Parish Church to inform them that the council would continue their existing grant at the current level.**

**0219/17 REPORTS**

Councillors were asked if there was anything else to add. KG noted the air ambulance is still scheduled for the field at Manor Farm but the field needs to be cleared. RC passed on local comments on the visits by the road sweeper to Strete which is an environmental health matter being off the main highway. It was decided a large sweeper would be needed on a regular basis. **The Clerk offered to make local enquiries. RC offered to provide the Clerk with names and quotes from local contractors with road sweepers contacted in the past.**

**0219/18 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2019 IN STRETE PARISH HALL AT 7.PM.**

**THE MEETING WAS CLOSED** at 10.15 p.m.

Signed: ..... Cllr Kate Gill (Chair)

Dated: 21 MARCH 2019

**ACTION POINTS:**

**Clerk:** to amend the draft letter on the laurel hedge; to draft a contract to Greenspace to include amendments from the meeting; to confirm what needs to be done in the next month in connection with notifying vacancies and starting the election process including to contact the SLCC for advice and send a copy of the Election Commission timetable to KG; to ask for confirmation on the £1 car park charge from Cathy Aubertin; to copy the report from Allianz to IC to read; to go back to Actionwest to commission a site survey at a cost of £42 inc VAT; to obtain information from the Land Registry for the listed asset consent form; to send the example of Salcombe’s budget to all councillors with equivalent figures for Strete to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting; to write to the Parish Church to inform them that the council would continue their existing grant at £200; to make enquiries on local road sweepers; remove £1.5k provided for Lee Bray.

**KG:** to clarify with RF what is the latest status of the monument; to find out from Alan Denbigh what Slapton’s plans are; to place an advert in the Shop for someone to take on cleaning out the buddle holes for a small sum; to resolve the narrow road at Strete Gate with DCC who need to be contacted to address it or RF could be approached to sort it out; to approach Highways to put an enforcement notice at the entrance.

**IC:** to visit the householder with the laurel hedge again and the draft letter would be amended as noted before being sent out; to draw up a spec to replace the steps at Strete Gate and three quotes will be obtained for the work; to look at the Village pump along with MH and report back; to confirm that playpark works have been done prior to payment.

**MH:** to look at the Village pump along with IC and report back.

**RC:** to email his submission on Blindwells to all councillors and to contact RF on this matter; to ask Phil Cruse if he could install the dog bin at Strete Gate; to speak with John Kingsley-Smith about the Monterey Pine; to provide the Clerk with names and quotes from local contractors with road sweepers contacted in the past.