

STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Helen Darch

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STRETE PARISH COUNCIL (PC) HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY 19th November 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT

Cllr Kate Gill (KG) (Chairman); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Peter Hales (PH); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF); Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB); Mr Steven Mullineaux South Hams District Council; 1 member of the public.

PRESENTATION AND QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION BY STEVEN MULLINEAUX SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Steve [SM] introduced himself as Director of Customer Service Delivery South Hams DC [SHDC] and West Devon DC. He wanted to talk about what had happened in the summer and how we could go forward with matters to hopefully prevent some reoccurrence of the problems encountered in 2020.

1. **Need for toilets at Slapton.** SM went back over the reasons for removing the toilets at the memorial carpark. The storm in 2018 had washed away the carpark and left the septic tanks below the toilets in a dangerous position. Officers didn't want to replace the toilets but Cllrs Foss, Brazil and Baldry requested they look at costing options along with a risk assessment and report back to members. Then members can decide whether it is viable to instal toilets on that land. SM explained the project had only just started and he doubted it would be priority such that it was resolved before next summer. But the priority attached was very much down to members.
2. **Car parking in general and issues faced in the summer.** SM admitted SHDC had been caught out by a number of unexpected occurrences. First of all, the number of people who turned up and what he termed 'change of behaviour we had from some of those visitors.' These were not 'traditional visitors' to the South Hams.

Secondly SHDC operates a 9-5 service Monday to Friday normally though of course litter and emergency services operate all days of the week. Members have requested a seven-day-a-week, with extended hours service for enforcement, and patrols early in the morning and later at night. A plan will go to Council and Executive in December. This covers operations starting at February half term in 2021 to Easter, onward to the end of September and ending October half-term. It is proposed a seven-day-a-week service starting February 2021 and with extended hours of operation as summer arrives from 6am to 8pm. This should see enhanced capacity for enforcement and visibility of officers.

3. **Barrier on the middle car park and problems with camper vans.** A report is going to the Executive on 3rd December setting out carparking charges. The carpark at Torcross will be 'closed' overnight ie from 10pm to 6am so all three carparks on the Line will have the same closing hours and are completely closed overnight. But barriers won't be used. SHDC can then ticket anyone who parks overnight in any of the three carparks because they would be parking illegally. It should bring clarity as currently carparks can be open overnight but no camping is allowed.

SHDC is also looking at a strategy around camper vans. Maybe campervan bays will be allocated with a distinct policy on charging for them. Members will decide on whether campervans should be allowed, the charges applied or whether they should be banned from the three carparks on the Line. SM reckons a policy will be in place by the main summer period.

4. **Litterbin collections.** SM admitted SHDC had not expected the number of tourists who appeared in the spring/summer. For example, one weekend in August 2020 saw 4 times the amount of rubbish collected to the equivalent weekend in 2019. This came from people eating out more, taking out more. SHDC had struggled to collect all the rubbish from the increased number of visitors. SHDC will be consulting with the contractor [FCC] to redesign the summer season at least from Easter to be more flexible with collections and dealing with rubbish. SHDC expect summer 2021 to be as busy as 2020.

SM took questions. GC updated all on the meeting he/IC had with Slapton PC on 11th November. Slapton PC noted the smaller campervans which can still enter the centre carpark because they are smaller than the barrier usually don't have hygiene facilities. They won't move as they don't want to lose their space so toilets are needed in the centre carpark for these campervans.

SM explained enforcement covers carparking and littering. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) could also be used. These are put in place to enforce against undesirable behaviours. Under a PSPO, SHDC could use immediate enforcement against people particularly groups who drink or behave badly or camp overnight and the police would be called on. At the moment there is little SHDC can do apart from seek an order to evict. The process to adopt a PSPO involves the three Parishes who are affected and needs a public consultation with the local community. If they are in favour then the order can be applied for. **Action: Strete PC to confirm with SM that they want to go ahead with this and SM to arrange a conference call between the Parishes, RF, JB to get agreement.**

RF asked that overnight fishermen will still be permitted to use the beaches individually at discretion and in larger groups so long as they obtain a permit.

SM said confirmed the scheme would be run inhouse without private security contractors as council officers had been trained up on enforcement. So, carpark enforcement, localities and environmental protection will all be trained up and available for enforcement duties. He also noted normally enforcement officers would not work after 8pm but if there is an issue then officers can be used at other times. The effect might not be immediate but a problem would see increased patrols for the next few days/weeks. IC noted that individuals may not be unruly but the sheer number camping and on an SSSI were causing problems for the environment. SM confirmed if the PSPO was in place, signs would be put up and this would add to the deterrence.

RF asked if the SLP had been consulted as they have plans to recruit an Adaptations Manager. SM has a meeting with representatives of the SLP next week. RF noted the SLP, SHDC and Parishes need to be coordinated on this.

PH asked if there was any plan to put in a manned carpark for the anticipated [increased] numbers of camper vans. This would be equivalent to an AIRE in France where onsite facilities would be offered. SM said this was an option but the problem is where it would be located and if one carpark was dedicated to campervans this would be full all summer and reduce the space for other visitors parking. IC thought it didn't matter as long as all paid.

GC thought people would just ignore carpark restrictions of say 8pm and park all night. He also wondered if ticketing would work if the owner of a car wasn't present when the ticket was issued. He asked about the detail of how a PSPO would work and who to report large beach parties to after 8pm and if this reoccurred?

SM replied the Police do have powers to enforce under PSPOs so they would be a key consultee. They would have a say over what they would be prepared to provide under the PSPO. He also explained SHDC took note of the message that they had not helped the Parishes with the beach problems for a number of years and now they are trying to remedy that. He did caution though that their powers [SHDC] are limited and cannot cover blatant offenders. He couldn't promise the coordinated approach with a PSPO across the three Parishes would end all problems but it would help and this represented steps toward solving the problems encountered in 2020.

LN expressed thanks to SM for dealing with this. She mentioned Friday and Saturday were the worst times. SM replied that the South Hams had a vast coastline and though resources are limited patrols could be arranged to cover certain areas at certain times. In the summer SHDC had concentrated their efforts on Bigbury where there was considerable noise and littering. This had been effective but problems then occurred elsewhere. It is also a fact that SHDC oversees a long area of coastline and unfortunately its resources are limited.

RC thought it would be a good idea to have a reporting facility on SHDC website to log incidents. **Resolved: SM to act on this and put in place a logging facility for public to report incidents and track trends.**

5. **Memorial.** The SHDC engineer had contacted the SLP, Alan Denbigh, who confirmed no active work was being undertaken to move the memorial. The current strategy is to wait and see what happens with the coastline. They will act when a trigger point is reached; at present they are not intending to move it in 2021/22. KG confirmed she had spoken with Alan Denbigh and the [capital] funds to do the works are being carried forward to 2021/22 and work won't start to take place until at least March 2021.

RF brought up the draft arrangements to fund the maintenance of the memorial which had been briefly discussed by the SLP before lockdown. The memorial was being moved onto Field Studies Centre land at Strete Gate. Each of the Parishes named on the memorial would be asked to contribute toward upkeep. He observed someone would have to take responsibility for the upkeep after the memorial was relocated. KG stated Strete PC had agreed to look after the arrangements for maintenance provided the other Parishes made contribution but a legal document needed to be drawn up to govern the arrangements on maintenance.

RC asked if there was a design layout and plans for the new site. There will need to be some landscaping to allow for visitors especially in the picnic area. RF informed him that Peter Chamberlain had drawn up plans and presented them to the last SLP. **Resolved: SM to ask Alan Denbigh for the plans when he meets with him next week. SM, RF and JB to find out latest on the monument and to report back to Strete PC.**

PH noted that Strete PC had not seen any plans at all and he wanted that minuted. Until the PC has seen the plans, they can't comment on whether this is suitable or not. This was the same situation as six months ago.

6. **Liaison with the Police and Crime Commissioner [PCC] to arrange beach marshals.** The PCC had allocated funds to beach marshals in 2020 but it had all gone to the major resorts and none to South Hams. SM didn't think the funding would be repeated in 2021/22.
7. **Strete Estate Probate.** SM has also embarked on a review of the leases held along the Line many of which are long term. SHDC estates team will provide a breakdown of the various leases for what is covered and not covered and what legal issues could arise. **Resolved: SM to report back on the Strete Estate probate and lease review.**

PUBLIC FORUM

No Parishioners wished to speak.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Devon is back in lockdown. Devon County Council [DCC] leads any response to outbreaks of COVID-19 which means they coordinate the response and get information on cases in Devon. Devon has more cases this time. JB gets informed when there is a spike of three or more cases. There was an outbreak in Kingsbridge a couple of weeks ago but nothing else. He noted the cases of COVID in our area are very low. There were a couple of cases at Stokenham School but that's been contained and a few at Kingsbridge Academy. He didn't know about Dartmouth Academy. Plymouth and Torbay do have more cases and they are more densely populated. He offered hope that as we are outside and sparsely populated, we should be okay for Christmas. He mentioned two road closures planned: Stokenham in the middle of January for a month; just below Carehouse Cross where there was a landslide. Then Strete by The Old Byre in early December for a week. JB will speak to the contractor [Keir] and will share on Facebook on the local Facebook page for Strete 'Strete South Hams TQ6' what's going on. RC thought it was night-time work. **The report was received.**

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

RF noted rubbish collection in this area had been 'mucked up' by the contractor [FCC] and SM and the two councillors were chasing this up. Routes have been changed in preparation for the new system which comes in next Spring. This has caused problems with rubbish collection. KG asked about the collection of brown bins and recycling. She noted the bins were being emptied but the recycling was being left often for days. RF explained the new contractor has reorganised teams into two streams. One does 'brown' and the other does 'black' so the information drivers used to pass on is not shared between teams. The best way to report is to go to the 'Waste' section of the SHDC website and report on there. If problems continue then to contact RF who will sort it out.

Officers at SHDC have been diverted onto COVID-19 issues and not a lot else is going on. There had been problems with IT and emails not getting through but the hope is once the Council changes to [Microsoft] Teams things should improve. JB observed the normal 'day to day' has pretty much stopped. But not being able to meet face to face was a problem. Communication suffered because of this. **The report was received.**

1120/1 APOLOGIES – None.

1120/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15 October 2020

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

1120/3 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.**

1120/4 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

3524/20/FUL Application for landscaping works to provide improved access. The Old Vicarage and Slide House, Hynetown Road, Strete TQ6 ORS.

RC commented on a hedge which is griselinea and if it is 1.8m above the wall then this is too high and thought this could impede vision onto the main road. IC thought if the bank was behind the wall and at ground height this wouldn't have the same impact on the sight line.

PH thought **this observation could be included as a comment**. As the effect is to improve the existing layout, he would support the application. IC noted this was the only scheme that could accommodate two separate entrances ie Old Vicarage and the Slide house. **Resolved: to support the application with comments as above.**

1120/5(a) FINANCE

Five cheques were listed for payment and invoices sent to all Councillors before the meeting. An additional cheque, 1747, was added to the list of payments at the meeting and approved.

1742 – Clerk salary November £271. This is £261 pay plus £10 catch up on pay rise Sept and Oct.	1743 – Mr P. Cruse works to bus shelter £309. Paid by Clerk so reimbursement to the Clerk.
1744 – £25 donation toward The Royal British Legion for a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.	1745 – Greenspace August to October cuts plus rolling path Prideaux Lane £455.70.
1746 – South Hams District Council Printing Neighbourhood Plan maps. £18.75 plus VAT.	1747 – Mr J Gilbert. Hedge trimming plus blower on the roads. £445 plus VAT.

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

1120/5(b) FINANCE

A monitoring report for 2020/21 had been circulated already along with a cashflow projection to the end of December 2020 of CR6,208.41. **Resolved the monitoring statements would be put on the website.**

1120/5(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £11,107.66CR Current account at 06/11/20, £10,297.73CR Business Reserve account at 06/11/20.

1120/5(d) FINANCE

To consider setting the precept for 2021/22. **Resolved: the Parish council set the precept on December 17th.**

1120/6 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk was not at the meeting so her report was held over.

1120/7 CHAIR'S REPORT

Report submitted before the meeting. Chairs Report Strete Parish Council 19.11.20

Coronavirus. Lockdown again. The government slogan: HANDS, FACE, SPACE. I prefer RISK ASSESS and STAY ALERT. Strete Gate and Slapton Line. The summer season has ended, thankfully with no major mishaps but it has however left a lot of very serious questions which need answering. The height barrier in the Memorial Car Park has caused some interesting events at both Torcross and Strete Gate.

Slapton Line Partnership. The last email I received from Alan Denbigh was on 7th Feb. 2020 and there was to have been a meeting between 4th and 13th March. Covid -19 prevented any further progress.

The proposed agenda would have included the following: -

- Monument movement update
- Adaptation Project update
- Points arising from briefing meeting with new MP, Anthony Mangnall (scheduled for 21st Feb – I have proposed a small group to attend: Peter Chamberlain, Dan Field, Cllr Richard Foss and self)
- Slapton Traffic Survey progress
- Rock armour maintenance
- Coastal erosion update

It didn't take place so everything has been delayed. I have spoken recently with Alan Denbigh and Peter Chamberlain. Discussions have taken place about the maintenance of the area on which the Memorial will be placed at Strete Gate and it is hoped that all the Parishes and Villages who are mentioned on the Memorial will make a financial contribution towards the cost. It has been agreed in principle that Strete will manage the work as it will be in our Parish. The finances of the Field Centre are not in good condition and they are anxious that a legal agreement is made between all the interested parties.

There are other issues to consider such as the provision of a larger car park to cope with the extra cars. I spoke with Charles Dixon on this recently and as he is still dealing with probate and the Strete Estate he is not yet in a

position to broker any agreements. One piece of good news is that the [capital] finance to move the Memorial is available to transfer to 2021/22 financial year.

Play Park. Pictures from the localities officer are now available to identify items of particular interest. Ian and I will do an assessment for repairs. We will then be able to put together a list of small items needing attention. There does not seem to be anything major on the horizon at the moment. The grass is being cut and the moles are still active. STAY SAFE EVERYONE. **The Chair's report was received.**

1120/8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**A report was submitted prior to the meeting.
Neighbourhood Plan Report – November 2020**

The Revised Strete Neighbourhood Plan proceeded to Regulation 16 for the regulation statutory six-week consultation on Monday 19/10/2020. This will end on Monday 30/11/2020.

A letter drop to each household in the Parish was completed on 4th November informing members of the community of the consultation period and the steps to be taken should anyone wish to comment. Thanks to all volunteers for distributing on 04/11/2020, one day before government lockdown was imposed.

It is hoped that examination can commence soon after. Deborah McCann is expected to remain as the Examiner.

Other Planning Matters

There have been a number of proposed amendments to planning regulations in response to COVID-19. These have the potential to have an impact on the delivery of the JLP and will need to be carefully monitored and considered going forward.

1. Permitted Development Rights

On 1 October 2020, the government introduced the amended permitted development rights which details what does and doesn't need planning permission. The new rights permit the construction of additional storeys on existing residential or commercial premises and the demolition and re-development of free-standing building blocks of flats without the requirement for planning permission.

2. Use Classes

On 1 September 2020, the government updated the Use Classes - categorising land and buildings for different uses, specifying which needs planning permission or not. The amendments introduce a new class system which provides more flexibility to change between the different classes. Recent reports from parliament indicate these have been objected to by several MPs and that the housing minister is re-visiting the proposals as a result. **The NP report was received.**

1120/9 UPDATES: STRETE GATE, ELECTRONIC VEHICLE SURVEY, PLAYPARK WORKS AND PLANTING OF MEMORIAL TREE. **Reports were submitted prior to the meeting. Strete Gate. This has been discussed fully above.**

Playpark works. Reported in 1120/7 above. RC asked what the last report from the localities officer said needs to be done. KG commented the report initially did not include photographs. KG noted that the localities officer 'road-tested' the equipment when the playpark was reopened in July. IC observed the benches had deteriorated. GC has wire brushed everything except the big climbing apparatus so he hadn't been able to treat the wood. **KG suggested the three councillors liaise to discuss what should be done.**

Planting of the memorial tree. DR noted a bird cherry tree had been chosen. A tree is being looked for and the location has been broadly sited.

The electronic vehicle [EV] survey. PH circulated the report on Thursday morning after the deadline for responses. Recommendation 4 of the report was that the charging point be in the Pub Carpark. RC said he wondered [though he wasn't speaking for the Pub management committee] if the Council would lead on any application for grant funding but the management committee would put the money in.

PH noted the grant funding was only available for public land and the pub carpark wouldn't qualify as it was private land. He thought other subsidies would be available in the next few months and it might be worthwhile waiting to see what become available. He did think the council could provide the lead on this once the criteria to qualify opened up to private charging points.

RC then referred to Recommendation 7 on the report which covered sources of heating. He wondered if the Parish council could provide advice to Parishioners on sources of heating under the climate change emergency. This is an area where plans to address the climate emergency could be progressed and assist where sources of heating were being phased out: for instance, gas boilers will be redundant after 2023. LN observed that other sources of heating depended on where the building was and how well insulated it was. For instance, an air source heat pump would work better in a well-insulated building.

PH also explained about a solar panel/battery storage collective purchasing scheme being run by DCC. They are using technical expertise and market leverage to broker deals with suppliers on behalf of householders. Under the scheme buyers sign up [around 500] and DCC conducts an auction with accredited suppliers to get the best price. GC noted a scheme exists for people on benefits or disability allowance with a supply for free.

A proposal by a Parishioner to plant a tree to commemorate the platinum jubilee was mentioned. **Resolved: IC to speak with the Parishioner who wanted to have a tree planted across from the Skerries. Reports were received.**

1120/10 DISCUSSION ON ROAD SPEED AND ROAD SAFETY IN THE VILLAGE.

The Clerk emailed the Highways officer after the last meeting to discuss a number of related issues to do with speed in the Village. She had circulated her email to the Highways officer to all councillors. RC thought the rumble strip/ cattle grid by Manor Farm should be replaced to slow people down but KG said Lisa Edmonds had informed her these would not be replaced. RC couldn't see why not as speeding still happened but it was suggested the speed limit signs 20/40 could be moved so the 40 was out beyond Southwood. **Resolved to address various speed issues including the email from the Clerk with the Highways officer.**

1120/11 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

RC mentioned the November sweeping in the Village which he believed was successful. PH wanted to talk about benches and wondered why it wasn't on the agenda. At the time of the meeting one quote was still outstanding and another was to be revised. **Resolved to carry over until all three quotes had been received.**

1120/12 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

KG (Chair) Playpark. Reported in 1120/7 and 1120/9.

LN Transport and Roads. The hedges in the village have mostly been cut, including Vicarage Lane. Outside the village the farmers have not cut the Totnes Road yet. I have been to see Philip Knight and spoke to Kevin who said they would be cut after they had finished a particular job.

DR Health and Safety. DR had nothing to report.

IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. IC reported verbally. Tree warden: A number of trees at Strete Gate had been cut down at the corner opposite the iron gate. Maybe the Strete Estate had been recommended that ash dieback was a problem and so trees could be felled. One of the trees was a pine and it was leaning toward the road so this is most likely down to safety. On the other side of the road on the corner some ash trees have been removed and this is probably precautionary on the part of Strete Estate. Remaining ash trees are away from the road and so not a risk from that respect. Strete Gate has seen tyre burning going on. There have been quite a few people down there over lockdown using the paths and beach.

RC mentioned activity behind the pub carpark by the substation. Councillors thought it was being done by the Strete Estate but not what it was. It appears to be clearance and tree maintenance. **IC said he would look into it.**

RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan. RC thought the Clerk would follow up the Landcombe enforcement [October minutes refer] which he clarified referred to the entrance way on the A379. *Since the meeting the applicants have emailed to give their contacts should the Council want to discuss any issues.* He also wondered if hardcore could be used to fill the holes in the passing bay on the Totnes Road. Maybe IC could move the materials [from the junction with the Totnes Road] out to the pothole, dump it and compact it. IC replied that the land belongs to Mr Sutton-Scott-Tucker. **Resolved: The Clerk to write to the landowner to ask what they would like to do about it and if they had any objection to the suggestion of the Parish council.** Finally, RC mentioned Rose Cottage next to the Pub is up for sale at £225,000. Councillors discussed this briefly and what powers Parish councils have to borrow money to invest in property and whether they would have to seek a mandate from the Parish. **Resolved: The Clerk look into the powers Parish councils have to take out loans for property investment and report back.**

PH The VAS sign and local transport liaison. VAS Monitoring. On 6th November the position of the VAS unit was changed back to the mounting at the 20mph speed warning sign on Totnes Road, as agreed at the discussion at the October meeting. Operation continues.

Local transport liaison Nothing new to report. The **Residents' Electric Vehicle survey** was distributed to all Strete households on 2nd November for return by 18th. Responses were analysed and a synopsis provided ready for discussion at the November meeting on 19th November. **A full report is on the website.** The survey recommended the Council provide £1,250 in the budget for 2021/22. Councillors wondered if the timing of the survey and its proposals had been too soon for 2021/22 but on the other hand it might be a government scheme would be announced shortly and it would be useful to have money available to take advantage. **Resolved to carry forward the £1,250 to December and budget-setting. This item was also discussed under 1120/9.**

Parish Benches and picnic tables. Three quotes have now been requested for discussion and action at the November meeting. **This was held over until the December meeting.**

GC Village Green. The final grass cutting of the year is being done this week. Greenspace have done some flattening of Prideaux lane so that they can now cut it again. The Contractor continues to be a little unreliable but he is £50 a time cheaper than the only viable alternative.

One of the barriers at Start Bay Park end of Prideaux lane is being bypassed but not by those who need to use it who have labelled keys. GC put in two wooden posts to restrict this but they were taken out and might have to install something that is more resistant!! **Reports were received.**

1120/13 CORRESPONDENCE

Minor Injuries Unit. GC had circulated an open letter to the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and copied to the NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group on the subject of the closure of Minor injury Units in rural Devon. GC asked if the council would support this or individual councillors in their own capacity. RC suggested the Parish council send this to the local MP and respond to the letter as well.

Resolved GC to add the Parish to the list of supporters. GC to write to Anthony Mangnall MP.

1120/14 OTHER BUSINESS

LN and GC mentioned a problem with a resident of Start Bay Park where water runs down the road, but doesn't drain away in front of his house. **Resolved: The Clerk advise on whom to contact to sort the problem out.**

RC asked about the Village Day Account and an update from KG on the recommendations in the report from Nick Shepherd [Appendix A minutes 17th October 2020]. She informed all that she had the forms from Lloyds to remove dormancy from the account. All the signatories have to complete the paperwork and then would send this back to reactivate the account. RC asked about the other recommendations and whether these would be reported back to the council. KG said yes once the account was active again.

1120/15 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 17th DECEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM. THE VENUE IS LIKELY TO BE ON ZOOM UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED. THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 8.00 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair) Dated: 17TH DECEMBER 2020