

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 23 APRIL 2020 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr Kate Gill, Chairman (KG); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Graham Campbell (GC); Cllr Peter Hales (PH); Mrs. Helen Darch – Clerk; two members of the public.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr Green and Ms. Kenny had sent round a report on their planning application for Landcombe House and attended to explain the report and planning situation. **Councillors had read the report and other documents and sent round their comments. All reports submitted to the meeting are on the council website under meetings.**

The applicants noted they had received incomplete and conflicting advice from South Hams during their pre-application period. There was some confusion over the status of the House as an undesignated heritage asset and on the materials required for the driveway and entrance. This latter aspect had resulted in the withdrawal of an application for the driveway and entrance. There will be another application put in for the driveway and entrance. RC asked about the status of the plans to develop the barn. It was explained there was an issue with asbestos in the roof which had to be removed. IC noted the barn was a bat sanctuary and this must be considered. Ms. Kenny confirmed that there would be an application submitted for any works to the barn.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As the County Councillor did not attend this report was not given

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As the District Councillor did not attend this report was not given.

0420/1 APOLOGIES – Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge Division (JB); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF).

0420/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2020

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

0420/3 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.**

0420/4 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

0829/20/HHO. Retrospective householder application for a new single storey rear extension and external works including alterations to existing garden walls and windows. Resubmission of 2859/19/HHO. Landcombe House Strete TQ6 0RH. As noted in the Public Forum, the householder, Mr Green, had previously circulated a report which explained the plans for the works to the House and some background into the planning process. Councillors had also submitted comments in advance of the meeting. **It was resolved to support the application and this was unanimous.**

0420/5(a) FINANCE

- a) The Clerk supplied the meeting with a list of cheques for payment. Invoices had been scanned and sent to all councillors electronically before the meeting.

1705 – Mr Chris Ellis £75 for strimming. Agreed and paid at meeting on 19 th March.	1706 – HM Land Registry £7 for a copy of the Title Register for the Kings Arms Strete. Cheque raised and sent 3 rd April 2020.
1707 – Strete Parish Hall hire March £30.	1708 – Compass Electrical Solutions (SW) Ltd rerouting of WIFI hub £135 plus VAT.

1709 – Mr R Clark print costs £24.14 January to March inclusive plus VAT.	1710 – Clerk salary April £249.
1711 – Devon Association of Local Councils annual membership £114 plus VAT.	1712 – South Hams District Council recharges for 2019 parish election £76.12.
1713 – Annual grant to St Michael’s Parish Church £220.	1714 – Reimbursement to Clerk £222.10 inc VAT for purchase of barriers for Prideaux Lane.

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

To note receipt of refund of VAT for 2019/20 year £888.53

To note receipt of Locality Budget grant of £250 toward Prideaux Lane works.

0420/5(b) FINANCE

A monitoring report for the new year which commenced 1st April 2020 had been circulated already along with a cashflow projection. The first projection for 2020/21 to the end of May 2020 gives CR 10,141.59 including a first half precept of £6,500 and council tax support grant. It was agreed the latest monitoring should be published on the website. **Resolved the Clerk would provide the monitoring statements for the website.**

0420/5(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £6,157.86CR Current account at 08/04/20, £10,293.97CR Business Reserve account at 08/04/20.

0420/6 CLERK’S REPORT

The report had been sent round before the meeting.

Broadband. The contract for WIFI in the Hall ended this month. The Clerk cancelled the contract for the moment until lockdown rules are relaxed. The contract can be revisited once we can get back into the Hall. ‘3’ quoted £11 per month to renew but as we are governed by lockdown measures it’s not sensible to take up the offer at the moment. **For information only.**

Zoom. The Clerk bought a subscription for a month at £11.99 which allows unlimited chat. It’s worth keeping an eye on this though as some groups have been allowed un-limited free chat. **For information only.**

ACV. The completed form and related paperwork were submitted on Monday to Rob Sekula at SHDC. **For information only.**

Scheme of delegation. This was brought up at the last meeting. The resolution is for the Clerk and any two councillors can take on delegated powers during the emergency to decide planning applications and finances. With finances, this means paying cheques to suppliers. Invoices would still be circulated but the payment of cheques be done outside council session if necessary. Planning matters would be decided by two councillors with suitable expertise and no interest in the application along with the Clerk.

This means the full council doesn’t have to meet to agree these actions though they still can do especially if they decide to continue meeting monthly. These decisions still have to be minuted and reported in the customary way.

Councillors asked about the duration of these delegated powers and which councillors would represent the council. It was confirmed these would only operate as long as the Council met virtually. At the latest this would be early May 2021. In addition, it was a fallback where there was a possibility that not all councillors were available to take decisions especially if these had to be done quickly. PH noted that for the finances that it would make sense for two signatories to work with the clerk. RC observed there had been problems in the recent past when a Clerk had taken on delegated powers and planning decisions made led to ‘uproar’.

It was resolved that delegated powers could be employed to raise cheques and pay invoices during the emergency but that these would only be deployed for planning ‘as a last resort’. The report was received.

0420/7 UPDATES ON COVID-19

Reports were provided prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed the current state of assistance in the village and whether anything else was needed. It was noted the list of volunteers had not been passed on to the Clerk by the Shop yet. Councillors wondered if anyone was not being helped by any of the local groups or ad hoc arrangements that existed in the village. GC explained the help Dartmouth Caring was providing in the way of meals and other practical tasks and telephone support. There hasn’t been any feedback from the Shop on any

problems and they seem to have sufficient help. People are doing shopping and collecting prescriptions for their neighbours. **It was resolved to let things continue without further intervention unless things deteriorate.**

0420/8 CHAIR'S REPORT

This report was submitted prior to the meeting. 23rd April 2020 Firstly a huge thank you to all of our helpful caring souls who are looking after the less able and housebound/locked-down Parishioners. Huge thanks also go to Monica, Andrew and the extended Pound family and their Volunteers for the services they are providing.

We are now several weeks into the pandemic. Very fortunately- we in the South West have had relatively few cases compared with the rest of the country and the world. Let's keep it that way! However, there are clearly going to be several weeks more lockdown.

Even so over the last few weeks we have had our share of thoughtless visitors. From what I personally saw and heard reports of - from exceedingly reliable sources - I felt it my duty to report miscreant behaviour officially to the Police who logged my call. As a result, the bad behaviour stopped. I will add that the persons responsible were staying in a holiday/second home and not residents. They have now left the village!

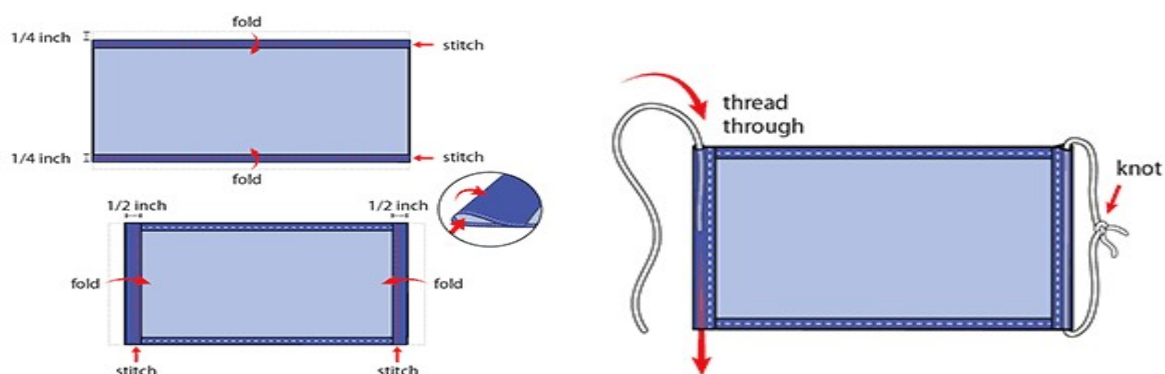
The suggestions in my last report still hold. So that we keep our health slate 'clean' we need to keep up the good work. I thought it might be a good idea to offer some suggestions on PPE.

We are all used to the concept that masks are to protect us from breathing in dust and fumes – we now have to turn that idea on its head. Masks now are worn on the assumption that we have the virus and are likely to infect others if we breathe on them – hence social distancing of more than 2metres apart where possible. Bearing in mind that we must continue to wash our hands very thoroughly even though we might be wearing disposable gloves – we can't be sure who has been there before us and contaminated surfaces!

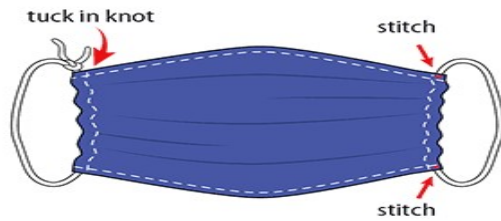
Let's look at making some homemade PPE masks. The simplest variety is made from two rectangles of dense cloth stitched together around the edges. Choose old jeans material or something similar for the outer layer and something softer for the inside. You will also require some narrow elastic which will thread through the side slots and will be comfortable around your ears.

Now the measurements – for each mask you will need to cut two rectangular pieces of fabric 6 inches by 10 inches plus two pieces of elastic 6 inches by 1/8th of an inch. Tape, ribbon or string can be used instead, tied off to the correct length for the wearer.

Working method/instructions - place the two pieces of cloth on top of each other. Fold the long edges over by 1/4" and stitch neatly down. Overlock or zigzag any protruding raw edges. Next fold the side edges over by 1/2". This will be the channel through which you thread the elastic. Stitch down neatly leaving a slot for the elastic. Diagrams provided by CDC – Centre for Disease Control.



Thread the elastic through the side slots using a bodkin or similar and fasten the ends either by sewing neatly with a machine or tie a knot. Check that the length is comfortable for you!! Tuck the join inside the slot and stitch with the side of the mask crumpled as in the diagram. This will mean that the side of the mask fits neatly to the side of your face.



These masks are washable. Make at least two, three if you can – you will always have a spare. If you are able; do make some extra ones for your friends and neighbours. N.B. Look after yourselves STAY SAFE and THANK YOU – NHS. **The Chair's report was received.**

0420/9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This report was submitted prior to the meeting. NP Report for PC – April 2020

Duncan Smith (SHDC) provided details of an email received from Mr Dixon advising that despite problems from the Government imposed lockdown they have been pursuing their researches into the viability of the proposals included in the NP.

The main figure missing from their analysis is that from Western Power Distribution. Western Power have estimated the engineering costs for relocating the sub-station in Cox's Farm Field to be £52,491.71 plus VAT. However Western Power have not yet advised what sum they require as a share of the development value for agreeing to move their sub-station. In addition, there will be professional fees in relation to the land swap with WPD.

In Mr Dixon's opinion the outlook for the viability of CFF site is not promising.

Once the final figures from WPD have been provided Mr Dixon has agreed to discuss them with the viability team at Plymouth City Council as well as with his clients.

In addition, Mr Dixon refers to previous emails in which he seeks some further statutory consultations to be undertaken on the proposed enlarged CFF land area.

Subject to the outcome of the Viability Assessment, consultation of the land area in CFF would be the next step.

The Examiner's examination extension is due to expire on 30th April 2020.

It is considered unlikely that all the necessary stages will be completed by this date whilst the present lockdown restrictions are in place.

Mr Dixon has suggested prolonging or deferring the extension indefinitely until the various discussions are complete and the lockdown restrictions have ended.

Duncan has contacted the Examiner and confirmed that Ms McCann is amenable to considering an extension given the progress made and the current circumstances.

However, it has been suggested delaying a formal request for an extension until later in April when perhaps the length of extension required can be confirmed.

Important changes in respect of NPs has been advised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

Regulations linked to the Coronavirus Act 2020 mean that no elections or referendums can take place until 6th May 2021. This includes neighbourhood planning referendums. These provisions will be kept under review and may be amended or revoked in response to changing circumstances. MHCLG understands this will be frustrating for communities that have dedicated significant time and effort to the neighbourhood planning process and naturally want their plans to come into force as soon as possible. With this in mind, they have updated current planning guidance to set out that neighbourhood plans awaiting referendums can be given significant weight in decision making.

There may also be delays in progressing neighbourhood plans due to the social distancing measures currently in place across the UK. The planning guidance update also provides further advice on the implications for conducting publicity & consultation and examinations. **The NP report was received.**

0420/10 UPDATE ON THE ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE APPLICATION

A report had been sent to all before the meeting. PH updated councillors on the application and the level of support received from parishioners. Over 75 individuals had written to pledge support in a number of ways that included financial backing and practical assistance. PH had also drafted a letter of thanks to the parish for their support and this was to go on the website. Mr Edwards had spoken to RC and PH to let them know he was still interested in the tenancy and looking for new partners as his partner was involved now in his own business. This was also taken in 0420/6, and 0420/14 as the Councillor report. **The report was received.**

0420/11 UPDATE ON THE SLAPTON LINE

This was not taken as the County Councillor was expected to report into the progress on the monument.

0420/12 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Greenspace. The grass cutting on the field has resumed and will be monitored. One cut had been done in March. **This was noted.**

Broadband. This was reported on earlier under 0420/6.

RC asked for the steps at Strete Gate to be retained on the agenda.

The state of sweeping in the village was discussed. The small sweeper had recently visited Start Bay Park and IC observed it had done a good job to remove the weeds. GC asked if the large sweeper [approved 0120/11d] would deal with road debris as that currently collected at Frogwell. RC confirmed it would if contracted to do so. **RC asked that the contract for the big sweeper be retained on the agenda.**

0420/13 UPDATE ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

No report had been sent before the meeting. Councillors observed pollution had fallen 'monumentally' with the lockdown which must be good for climate change. **This was noted.**

0420/14 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

KG (Chair) Playpark. The grass was cut by Terry Hallet during the lockdown to keep it short. There had been some nuisance with youngsters trying to get into the park and KG and IC have had to evict youngsters from the park despite its closure.

LN Transport and Roads. Wheelies were an issue with tyre marks on several roads and in the Strete Gate carpark. Other than that, it was extremely quiet on the roads.

DR Health and Safety. DR confirmed the winter service has now come to an end, and snow wardens are being stood down. He had also completed the necessary on line forms registering his availability to carry on next winter. He will inspect all the grit bins, removing any old grit in readiness for re filling when the time requires. Finally, he will check salt supplies so these are ready for next winter.

IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. Rights of way. These are being used heavily by walkers but there isn't really a lot that can be done to oversee what people do. IC complimented GC on his work with the barriers on Prideaux Lane.

Tree warden. IC had looked at some trees flagged by RC and explained that the drought conditions meant trees tended to conserve water and wait until the rain before they came out. So, the ash down at Strete Gate is waiting for moisture. The sycamore down by the Tannen Land could be a late-leafing one and he was keeping an eye on these trees especially as the recent history of trees being felled there warranted a watching brief. The Monterey pine along Hynetown continued to grow and represent a possible hazard to the road tarmac. Charles Dixon had promised to deal with this when it impinged on Strete Estate land.

Strete Gate. IC also noted a large number of cars down at Strete Gate akin to the height of summer. GC commented that this was not flouting government guidelines if people were not driving too far to take their exercise. However, campervans have been seen there which may or may not suggest people using the car park to stay over. 'Tarmac burners' had left rubber marks in the carpark over the weekend and left the barriers open. Unfortunately, the picnic area is now being used as a latrine possibly as the toilets have been closed. Quadbikes are being driven on the beach. IC commented that these could be local fishermen who use them to get down to their fishing spots.

RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan. RC had nothing to add to his earlier report in 0420/9.

PH The VAS sign and local transport liaison. VAS Monitoring. PH asked GC if he had been able to contact Greenspace to add the Devon bank immediately in front of the VAS to their schedule. Work needed to be done imminently. Strimming back the grass and foliage will need to be carried out for a distance of about 60 feet the next two weeks if the continued reliable operation of the VAS is to be maintained. **Resolved: GC offered to do the cut now.**

Local transport liaison

Nothing to report.

Renewal of the ACV for the Kings Arms

This was also discussed in 0420/6 and 0420/10. The title deeds have been received now and the application submitted to South Hams.

PH also commented on the state of some of the benches around the village. He wondered which belonged to the parish and whether we could get them fixed. IC offered to do works to the bench at Old Hill once materials could be obtained. The bench in Blackbird Wood belongs to the Melro De Smithes Trust and KG will talk with the trustees about repairs to this bench.

There is a fixed asset register which lists all the assets held by the parish. This is attached.

GC Village Green. The barriers for Prideaux Lane have arrived and will be fitted by GC subject to lockdown and material availability and keys distributed. 'No vehicle entry' signs have been fitted though one has to be moved to avoid tractor machinery. Currently the lane damage is so hard and dry that seems a roller will not flatten it unless there is a good amount of rain. It might be worth approaching Mark Wall to see if he will do it for the same price as Greenspace quoted as £70 no VAT.

The gatepost for village field needs replacement. Best quote seems to be Chris Ellis at £75. Discussion took place on the difference between the quote from Chris Ellis and an earlier quote of £197.60 from Phil Cruse. It was noted the scope of works differed. **However, it was resolved the difference between the two quotes was explained.**

0420/15 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was circulated as it was received. The Clerk observed the majority of emails received since the last meeting related to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. These were forwarded to councillors and placed on the website as appropriate for public viewing.

0420/16 REPORTS

LN informed the meeting that Mark Lobb was offering a delivery service for fresh fish in the village at two pick up points. RC replied that the Shop also had some fresh/frozen fish in stock from Beesands. IC updated the meeting on a car abandoned at the top of Start Bay Park. It had a lacerated tyre and a SORN notice. He asked if he could contact the police to report it. **It was resolved IC contact the police to report the car.**

0420/17 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020 AT 7.00 PM ON ZOOM.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 7.53 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair)

Dated: 21 MAY 2020

ACTION POINTS:

Clerk: to provide the monitoring statements for the website.

GC: to cut the growth around the VAS sign, to explain the difference between the two quotes for the gate repair at the Village Green.

IC: to report the abandoned car at the top of Start Bay Park to the police.