

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 MARCH 2019 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr Kate Gill, Chairman (KG); Cllr Ralph Clark (RC); Cllr David Rothwell (DR); Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC); Cllr Mark Hanson (MH); Cllr Louise Newman (LN); Cllr John Vallance (JV); Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Allington & Strete Ward (RF); 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

JB commented there was not much to report. He noted the 2.99% budget increase voted in for DCC and 1% increase for Adult Social Services. DCC funding toward the roads [Minutes 11/18 County Councillor report refer] has been granted and councillors to let JB know where issues are for funding purposes. RC mentioned the Strete Gate carpark entrance and buddle holes. JB advised KG and he had spoken with Lisa Edmonds on this matter. There is £100,000 available in the Community Enhancement Fund to bid for. IC informed there was a problem with a buddle hole up by Philip Knight which discharges onto Philip Knight's fields. Access to fix this will need permission of the landowner either The Strete Gate Estate or Blackpool Estate. He also suggested that ditches needed to be cleaned out though not to deposit the silt outside the buddle hole which would only block this up again.

School funding is facing a problem and the principal of the Kingsbridge Community College announced a number of cost-saving measures which include laying off teachers, slimming down the curriculum and the withdrawal of one-to-one special needs tutoring. The DCC schools' budget has seen a fall of 8% in real terms and DCC has resolved to write to the Secretary of State for Education on this matter. RC noted in East Devon parents have been asked to contribute £15 per child/ £5 per second child to school funds.

The report was received.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

RF advised of £500,000 extra for next year. There is no extra money from central government however. At a special council meeting on 21st March the Joint Local Plan [JLP] was signed off with partners West Devon DC and Plymouth CC. This means any housing development in the AONB not already granted permission is going to find it much harder to get permission. So, the sooner the Neighborhood Plan is agreed the better. RF noted Malborough, Stoke Fleming and Bickleigh have now all been signed off. John Tucker, the leader of SHDC has now retired.

The district and parish elections coming up on 2nd May were touched on [*nominations commenced 21st March and purdah is 21st March to 2nd May*]. It is likely a number of councillors overall will be replaced and a 'sea change' could arise.

The Slapton Line Partnership is quiet at the moment but RF commented on how little shingle there is down at the Torcross end of the Line. There is very little scope to move the road further inland now.

RC asked about affordable housing and an initiative taken by Cllr Birch to form a wholly-owned development company to build affordable housing. RF responded that plans are in place to build affordable housing and monies will be allocated to invest within the district. RF informed the meeting of a '4 band' Income Banded Council Tax Reduction scheme whereby individuals are awarded a discount of up to 85% on their council tax based on their circumstances. Much of this will be funded from the Community Housing Fund.

IC asked RF about a planning point whereby is it possible to support an application but nonetheless have a 'staunch' condition attached to this. He wanted to clear this up in connection with the application being considered later 0540/19/FUL, 0541/19/LBC The Kings Arms. RF advised it is possible to 'mitigate' that is include certain specifications for instance types of glass in windows. RC then mentioned the memorial.

The report was received.

JB then left the meeting.

0319/1 APOLOGIES – No apologies were received.

0319/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2019

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

0319/3 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.**

0319/4 CLERK'S REPORT

Highways matters. Lisa Edmonds emailed to say she had checked the drains around the Laughing Monk and that they were clear with their inlets and outlets visible. Also, SHDC had been asked to send the sweeper to go around the village by the end of March. She also received leads from RC whom she will contact if needed. The new waste recycling and cleaning services contract starts at the beginning of April and thus SHDC is keen to get as much done as they can before the new contract starts.

Greenspace contract. The Clerk sent a contract letter to Greenspace this week which included all the comments from the last meeting. This was signed off by KG. The Clerk also asked Greenspace to raise bills for work done and notified since the start of January 2019.

Grants and funds. Since the last meeting the Council has received a grant from the SLCF for £1,000 toward the fencing works and is about to receive a TAP Fund grant for £399.40 for the defibrillator.

Election training. The parish and local government elections take place on 2nd May. The Clerk attended two courses and has materials for councillors including posters. Posters announcing the Elections for District and Parish councillors were put up on the noticeboards by the Clerk this morning. Nomination forms are available tonight and will be left on a table for people to help themselves. A briefing note was sent round by the Clerk early this month.

External audit. The external auditor for smaller authorities is PKF Littlejohn. They will publish guidance on their website on Monday for the 2018/19 inspection of smaller councils. This includes instructions, forms and templates for completion. Some smaller authorities will be selected for intermediate testing as a 5% sample. Based on last year Strete was exempt [Income less than £25k, and expenditure likewise] and submitted an Exemption Certificate. The internal audit will still be performed by Nick Shepherd.

Information commissioner. The ICO contacted the Clerk to ensure the Council was registered with the ICO as her predecessor has moved on. This £40 registration requires the council to comply with data protection including GDPR and Freedom of Information. This includes the right of individuals to access their data held by Strete Parish Council and how the council uses data held for instance the electoral roll. The Clerk is the Data Protection Officer.

Clerk pay rise. The National Joint Council for Local Government Services agreed new pay scales from 1st April 2019. This includes parish clerks. The current Clerk is on SCP 15 [lowest point on the scale] and this goes from £9.34/hour to £9.77/hr or £244.25/month from April.

The report was received.

0319/5 CHAIR'S REPORT

21.03.19. Slapton Line. Is an ongoing subject. The company, Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, has as you all know won the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation award.

I have no other news on progress on the draft policy. You will note the road from Strete Gate to Strete has been given some attention by DCC Highways cleaning department as promised by Lisa Edmonds.

Annual litter picking. We had a small but successful team who removed the usual quantity of litter. They came to Manor Farm for refreshments.

Strete Gate. I have taken some photos of the access road but not progressed any further. The red dog-poo bin remains a mystery. I sent out an email to see if anyone had any idea of who had moved it but had no response.

Village pump. I've also taken photos of the damage to the pump but been unable to print these off as my printer is not working.

Play park. The newly-replaced fence looks good and by all accounts is very well done- it had the watchful eye of Ian Cumberlidge on it whilst the contractor was busy. It was done just in time to avoid disturbing nesting birds – well done all round. Thankyou Ian.

Planning. We have the ongoing saga of Blindwells which Ralph Clark is keeping an eye on especially in respect of our previous comments. Everyone's privacy is of utmost importance. We should be particularly aware of this aspect on every application we are asked to advise on.

The Chair's report was received.

0319/6 PLANNING & PLANNING MATTERS

[0540/19/FUL], The Kings Arms. Alterations to rear including new roof detail and bi-fold door systems, extend balcony and form 2nd floor rear extension including roof top balcony to residential accommodation.

[0541/19/LBC] The Kings Arms. Listed building application for alterations to rear including new roof detail and bi-fold door systems, extend balcony and form 2nd floor rear extension including roof top balcony to residential accommodation.

Councillors have visited the site to consider the application. RC noted there may be an overlooking issue but that the publican [who is the applicant] has spoken to his neighbours about the application. RC had spoken with some of the surrounding householders. MH had also spoken with some of the neighbours to the pub. He thought the overlooking issue would affect Forest Cove Cottage and that it would be better if there was a screen on the balcony and to maybe make this a condition of approval. The balcony is going to allow people to come out and enjoy the view but there wouldn't be much more seating at the back. IC wondered if there could be an invasion of privacy so to be careful as this had been a reason for objection in past applications. He also wondered if it was possible to extend the wall at the back on the side of Forest Cove Cottage. LN commented the planned works do tidy up the pub layout and also allows the publican to live on site.

RF suggested that councillors could say they support provided that the 'overlooking is dealt with' and this covers both sides [applicant and Forest Cove Cottage]. As the site is listed Richard Gage may wish to comment but the works are to the back rather than the listed element at the front of the building. It was decided to vote on a resolution which stated: 'Support provided the overlooking issue is mitigated'. **It was resolved to support the application provided the overlooking issue is mitigated and the vote was unanimous.**

0319/7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
NP Report for PC – March 2019

The SHDC six-week consultation phase commencing 08/02/2019 is due to finish on 22/03/2019.

The Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS) provided CVs for three potential examiners.

SHDC requested the preferred choice of Steering Group members be advised asap.

Steering Group members preferred examiner is Mrs Deborah McCann BSc, DipArchCon, MRICS, MRTPI who lives in North Huish, South Brent. This was submitted to SHDC on 27/02/2019.

SHDC confirmed the appointment of Mrs McCann on 21/03/2019 and have advised all necessary paperwork will be passed to her on 26/03/2019.

Duncan Smith advised on 19/03/2019 that SHDC haven't received a lot of consultation responses. His comments went out last Thursday for delegated approval (apparently, he has to get the approval of SHDC senior officers and members including the local members). He advised this will be ready to send to Strete NP and the Examiner early next week

Once the examiner has completed the necessary checks a date for the referendum can be agreed. One month before the agreed referendum date, advertising can begin with public notices, etc.
Struan Coupar of Stoke Fleming SG kindly advised an allowance of just over £2,000 should be available for election

expenses from SHDC. This is made up from a flat-rate sum plus a small amount for each registered elector. Struan also provided details of the design and printing suppliers Stoke Fleming used together with design and printing costs for village notices that came to approximately £1,500. It is not anticipated that design and printing requirements will be the same for Strete which should result in reduced costs.

Hard copies of SNP are to be made available to view in public places. In addition, 300 A4 full-colour leaflets are to be designed outlining details of SNP together with details for voting in the referendum. These are to be delivered to every registered elector's home to inform and encourage members of the community to vote in support of the plan.

The examination and referendum period is likely to be two to three months before it is complete.

The 'My Community' website suggests there is a possibility that new grant funding may be available from 01/04/2019. This can only be applied for once the last grant received has been signed off. Notification was received on 15/03/2019 that the grant awarded in June last year was to be signed off before the end of March 2019. The 'End of Grant' report was submitted and confirmed by email as being complete on 20/03/2019.

The Final Inspector's Report on the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP) has been received. The report confirms that the JLP, as amended by the Main Modifications, is sound and can proceed to adoption. The Inspectors' Report marks the final stage of the Examination of the JLP and means that SHDC can proceed to adoption on Thursday 21st March 2019.

For those Neighbourhood Plan Groups at important stages in the process and where Examiners are in place, or about to be appointed, Duncan Smith will let them know.

The NP report was received.

0319/8 UPDATE ON THE SLAPTON LINE AND PLACING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

RF hasn't heard anything from the Slapton Line Partnership [SLP] on this matter. He also informed the meeting that there had been no planning application put in by Slapton PC and that DCC Highways were going to visit the proposed site. RF suggested Strete PC send an email to Alan Denbigh stating why Strete PC think the Slapton site is not suitable. In practice although any of the villages on the monument could claim it there were only the three coastal villages that were suitable for reasons to do with the locus of Operation Tiger: Slapton, Stokenham and Strete.

KG noted the US naval attaché has been contacted and will meet with the Council when the celebrations take place, either in April or June. RC commented it would need considerable funding to relocate the monument to Strete Gate and grants should be sought. A number of parties have to be involved including the landowner, local authorities, the Ley Centre and conservationists.

LN asked if the monument would be seen from the road if it moved to its site in Slapton and this was confirmed. **It was resolved KG would speak with Alan Denbigh and to keep the item on the agenda.**

RF then left the meeting [8.20].

0319/9 PROVISION OF EXTRA PARKING ALONG THE SLAPTON LINE

Strete Gate is the only place for extra carparking [RC]. A number of proposals were put forward which included extra parking in the field, widening the road and take a line of trees out. This matter will be dealt with after 2nd May. **It was decided to contact SHDC again to ask them to get the broken steps fixed [Dan Field at SHDC had been approached in October 2018, minute 1118/9 refers] and to consult the Strete Gate Estate on this.**

0319/10 SLAPTON LINE PUBLIC TOILETS AND REVISED CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Clerk had confirmed with Cathy Aubertin that the £1 carparking charge for 1 hour will apply all day.

0319/11 ACCESS TO THE BEACH FROM THE PUBLIC TOILETS

This matter had already been dealt with in 0319/9 regarding the steps.

0319/12 VILLAGE PUMP

MH suggested someone clean the greenery from the joints and then the pump could be nudged back into shape and repointed. **It was resolved that IC would remove the greenery and MH will then deal with the joints and repaint the pump.**

0319/13 UPDATE ON CONTRACTS

Playpark. The latest localities report March 19th confirms works to the equipment and the fencing have been done.

Fencing. JW Wicks did the works starting 11th March and have completed all works, which IC inspected. They submitted a bill for the agreed amount of £3,712.54 plus VAT. A cheque will be raised tonight and held until the first week of the new year. KG and the Clerk to visit the bank on Monday to arrange a temporary advance of £4k from the Business Reserve account to cover the cheque before the first half precept is received on 30th April.

WIFI. Actionwest visited the Hall on 6th March and obtained a download [mbps] of 37 which is ample for what we need. He also went around the Hall with the Clerk and looked at where aerials could be installed to pick up the signal. The latest costs from Actionwest to install an aerial and obtain a service are just under £490 inc VAT but a grant was received in 2018/19 for £500 toward the costs of WIFI in the Hall. **Resolved the Clerk would go back to Actionwest to go ahead and do works, subject to confirmation of the download speed.**

0319/14 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

KG (Chair) Playpark. Reported on in 0319/5.

LN Transport and Roads. The milestone above Blackpool is okay. From the litter pick: rubbish is mainly on the roads into the village and not in the village itself. There is another litter pick planned down at Pilchards Cove and maybe the mule can be used to transport the litter back up the beach. The Countryside Alliance has a planned pick on the 7th April which might be a good date. LN said she would like Chris Ellis to continue with his strimming work. IC reported on the laurel hedge: he has visited the householder but they weren't in. He will continue to try. He also noted the buddle hole [a gully plus buddle hole] near Ash toward the village [by the little hut] needs to be cleared and he will do it. **Resolved: LN to arrange another litter pick. IC to continue to resolve laurel hedge overhang, to clear buddle hole up near Ash.**

DR Health and Safety. The application for listed building consent for the telephone kiosk will be submitted as the landowner had confirmed entries needed on the form. **Clerk to submit the application form for listed building consent for alterations to SHDC.**

IC Rights of Way, tree warden and Strete Gate. Rights of Way nothing to report though Prideaux Lane needs to be strimmed soon. The loss of trees down Vicarage Lane was noted.

Strete Gate: the dog-poo bins were discussed. It may be sensible to locate the green dog-poo bin by the other rubbish bins: on the path near the toilet/footpath junction. KG thought it better to place the bin once the steps were repaired. RC said he would see Phil Cruse at the quiz night on 23rd March and talk to him about this then. IC also noted in respect of the posts on the corner that some '4 by 4' were missing and will need to be replaced to stop people driving through the gaps. MH suggested a padlock on the gate to stop people driving onto the beach, KG would sort this out with Kim and ensure the gate was locked at the end of the day.

KG said she would also check who had ownership of the land round the picnic area as it was thought the Ley Centre had taken it over. **Resolved that RC speak to Phil Cruse about fitting the green dog-poo bin and Phil would consult IC on where to place the bin and the posts. KG to speak with Kim about locking the gate at the beach and to confirm ownership of the land by the picnic area.**

RC Planning and Neighbourhood Plan. RC gave an update on the correspondence with SHDC on Blindwells which has been copied to all councillors. He is concerned the planner will continue to discuss options with the developer though it is likely to be at least a year before anything emerges. Nonetheless RF could put the application before the Development Management Committee for consideration. RC remarked the JLP is now in force and once the NP is approved these would reinforce the parish's stance on development.

JV Village Green. JV noted the recent visit by the hedge trimmer had left ruts and these may need rolling out. He will sort this. **Resolved: JV will deal with the ruts down at the Green.**

MH The VAS sign. The sign is at KG [Manor Farm] and isn't working though there are no signs of visible damage. **Resolved the warranty would be checked and a letter drafted to Westcotec to explain the issues with the sign.**

0319/15(a) FINANCE

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

1635 – Strete Parish Hall hires for February [PC] £40	1636 – The Information Commissioner £40
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1637 – John Gilbert £425 plus VAT	1638 – Actionwest survey for WIFI £35 plus VAT
1639 – SLCC Course on elections £30 plus VAT	1640 – Clerk salary March £233.50
1641 – WJ Wicks and Sons Ltd £3,712.54 plus VAT	

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

0319/15(b) FINANCE

A monitoring report to the year end 31/3/19 had been circulated already along with a cashflow projection. The latest projection to the year-end is CR1,503.54 at the year end. The Clerk advised that an invoice for £3, 712.54 plus VAT for the fencing works had been promptly submitted by the contractor and due for payment before the first half precept in late April 2019. The chairman and her would arrange for £4,000 to be transferred temporarily from the Reserve account to cover funds whilst this cleared. This would then be repaid once the precept had been received. The VAT reclaim for 2018/19 for £1,306.62 was submitted to HMRC on 16th March and it should also boost funds until the end of April. **Resolved the chairman and Clerk would visit NatWest Paignton to arrange a temporary transfer of funds from the Reserve Account to cover cashflow in April 2019.**

Budgets: The Clerk had sent examples of Strete’s 2019/20 budget in the format of Salcombe’s precept for 2019/20 as an example of how budgets are allocated across categories rather than individuals and how a budget which showed the precept analysed across activity for the public was drafted. RC also wished to have a more detailed budget for monitoring. The Clerk explained this already existed as monitoring YTD against agreed budget categories and was sent to councillors on a monthly basis with agenda papers. It is available for the public if they wish to request it. Budgets could be revisited every six months. **Resolved the Clerk would prepare a statement for the noticeboards and website which showed the precept for 2019/20. The monitoring statements that are sent out every month could be posted on the website [Dartmouth Town Council do this].**

0319/15(c) FINANCE

Cash at bank – £4,799.07CR Current account at 08/03/19, £14,271.05CR Business Reserve account at 08/03/19.

0319/16 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence as listed was noted and a late addition received on 21st March from Savills on arrangements for collecting rents.

0319/17 REPORTS

Councillors were asked if there was anything else to add and all declined.

0319/18 THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2019 IN STRETE PARISH HALL AT 7.PM.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED at 8.50 p.m.

Signed: Cllr Kate Gill (Chair)

Dated: 18 APRIL 2019

ACTION POINTS:

Clerk: to instruct Actionwest to go ahead and install an aerial and ancillary kit, subject to confirmation of the download speed; to submit the application form for listed building consent for alterations to SHDC; to visit NatWest Paignton to arrange a temporary transfer of funds from the Reserve Account to cover cashflow in April 2019; to prepare a statement for the noticeboards and website which showed the precept for 2019/20 and monitoring statements that are sent out every month could be posted on the website [Dartmouth Town Council do this].

KG: to speak with Alan Denbigh on the monument and to keep the item on the agenda; to visit NatWest Paignton with the Clerk as above; to contact SHDC again to ask them to get the broken steps at Strete Gate fixed; to consult the Strete Gate Estate on this; to speak with Kim about locking the gate at the beach and to confirm ownership of the land by the picnic area.

IC: to remove the greenery around the village pump; to continue to resolve laurel hedge overhang, to clear buddle hole up near Ash;

LN: to arrange another litter pick.

RC: to approach Phil Cruse about fitting the green dog-poo bin and Phil would consult IC on where to place the bin and the posts.

JV: to deal with the ruts down at the Green.

MH: village pump: to deal with the joints and repoint the pump; to check the warranty for the VAS machine and to draft a letter to Westcotec to explain the issues with the sign.