

# STRETE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Andrea Phillips, 1 Hyne Town Strete Dartmouth TQ6 0RT  
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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN STRETE PARISH HALL ON THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.

### PRESENT

Cllr Tony Crawford (TC) (Chairman)	Cllr Ian Cumberlidge (IC)
Cllr Kate Gill (KG) (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Malcolm Hollis (MH)
Cllr David Rothwell (DR)	
Cllr Richard Foss, District Councillor, Skerries Ward (RF)	
Andrea Phillips – Clerk	
Louise Newman	Roy & Joan Kendall
Ralph & Celia Clark	Andrea Hollis
Ian Coates	David & Liz Ferguson
Norman Hallett	Andrew Pound
William Park	One other parishioner

### AP15/1 APOLOGIES

Cllr Bryan Seymour (BS)  
Cllr Jeff Scanlan (JS)  
Cllr Julian Brazil, County Councillor, Kingsbridge & Stokenham Ward (JB) is arriving later  
Strete Chapel

### AP15/2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2014

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

### AP15/3 TO RECEIVE STRETE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk recorded 2014 opening balances as follows, with the opening balances of 2014 in brackets.

Current Account	£10,435.56	(£6,649.26)
Reserve Account	£10,256.78	(£10,252.11)

### AP15/4 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS

Representatives from the following organisations were invited to give a presentation:

#### • Blackawton with Strete History Group (BASH) – Val Phillips

No report was submitted so Kate Gill stepped in to report on the recent joint Spring event that was organised by the Devon History Group with BASH. Lunch was taken in Strete as part of the day's events. It was a Mediaeval five course meal using authentic ingredients with mead and rosehip cordial to drink. The meal was served on wooden trenchers, and was followed by a DVD on the D-Day landings kindly supplied by Dartmouth Museum and a question and answer session with local residents on their experiences about the evacuation. If anyone is interested in joining BASH, they are always looking for new members so please enquire.

#### • Maritime and Coastguard Agency & Neighbourhood Watch - Mr Andrew Pound

Andrew Pound gave an interesting talk on the local Coastguards and reported on their busiest year on record. They dealt with 61 call outs last year against an average of 35, so it was almost double. Of these, there were 12 medivacs which included broken hips, a broken back and head injuries. There were 13 searches for missing persons and one death. Lives saved were 15 and in all, just over 100 people were assisted. They normally have a crew of 12 but they only have 11 at present with one vacancy. They have 320 hours training annually, so it is a big commitment and finding the right personnel is very important. The main qualities needed are common sense and to be available as full training is given. The Coastguard station at Brixham has now closed, the service is very short staffed, they are hoping to be sorted before the summer rush.

#### • Melroe de Smithies Woodland Trust - Ms Pam Wills

No report available.

#### • St Michael's Parish Church – Revd John Bell

Joan Kendall read out Revd Bell's full report in his absence. The ministry of John Bell has continued with invaluable support from various Readers, in particular Sally Green, and from members of the Church Council, the congregation plus other loyal supporters. Rev John Bell is to retire in June and he and his wife, Hazel, are to move to Okehampton in July. His last service to which everyone is invited is to be at St Peter's in Stoke Fleming on 21<sup>st</sup> June at 11am. The Deanery Plan predicts the Parish Church of East Allington will officially join Strete, Stoke Fleming and Blackawton when a new minister is appointed in the coming year. The Church and Chapel continue to do some joint services, the most recent was Mothering Sunday, which was a happy and friendly occasion. Once a fortnight a Holy Communion service with hymns is held at Hyne Town House and in the summer the Devon Christian Youth Camps staying at Southwood have evening services in the Church which are often very busy with 100-200 campers and chapel members in attendance. They also take part in a regular bible study group called Christians Together. The final touches to the disabled access route into the church were completed when the railings were painted black and the Church is very grateful to everyone who helped in the project as the entrance into the church is now so much easier and user friendly. Advertising God's message of love and the hope of eternal life through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is at the heart of what they hope to achieve, but it comes at a cost. The church is very expensive to run so fundraising has to be another priority. They are very grateful to those who have given so generously, including the Parish Council for their grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard. It

is amazing all they have accomplished during 2014 and it is their hope that St Michaels can keep going for many years to come!

• **Strete Chapel – Gill & Derek Harris**

Nobody from the Chapel was able to be present and Jim Carver prepared a report. The fellowship remained strong over the year with an increase in regular numbers attending the Sunday morning services. They have had many excellent speakers and in the summer of 2014 two baptisms were held at Strete Gate beach with a Thanksgiving service in the Chapel afterwards. The Young Searchers continued to meet on Thursday evenings but the Youth Club in Stoke Fleming reopened and some children attended there instead which made the Young Searchers numbers too low to continue, so it closed for a short break. However, after much prayer, the Chapel are pleased to report it has now re-opened with six young children attending! They are still looking for a new Pastor to lead fellowship. Just prior to Christmas, Derek Darch organised a Christmas Party in the Parish Hall, with a sit down Roast Turkey dinner followed by party games. Over the Bank Holidays, outings were arranged to Torquay with lunch and ten-pin bowling and a trip to Weston Super Mare to see Jim and Pat Eldergill and have lunch at a local restaurant, a visit to the sea front and back to Pat and Jim's for a cream tea. More outings are planned this year to Plymouth Barbican with a boat trip to the King William Yard, a boat trip to Cornwall, a return visit to Weston Super Mare and Exmouth for a beach BBQ, swimming and games. Shared services with the Church included Remembrance Sunday at the Church, Carol Services at both Chapel and Church and the Mothering Sunday Service.

• **Strete Indoor (Short Mat) Bowls Club**

No report had been prepared so Andrew Pound stepped in. He reported that they had been promoted to the top league last year and came 4<sup>th</sup>! They have just had their last match of the season and have four new members. They are now up to around 25 members, many of whom come from outside the village; two of the new members are from Chillington. New members are always welcome and the club meet every Tuesday evening at 7pm.

• **Strete Luncheon Club – Kate Gill**

Kate apologised as there was no lunch club today, the first one missed in memory but four of the organisers are away. The club is still thriving, members enjoy the meals and the menu is varied each month. The monthly lunch costs £4 for a two course meal and a drink and this also provides for a free Christmas lunch.

• **Strete Social Club – Mrs Joan Kendall**

There has been a good attendance at most of the meetings over the past twelve months. They have had a good variety of speakers who are mainly local due to the cost. Harry Fenton spoke on his life as a Fireman and Jocelyn Randol Mills gave an interesting talk on names and where they came from, giving members the origins of their surnames. Another topic was the Brooke Hospice for horses and the latest talk was given by Ron Howell on diving on wrecks and finding real treasure; this was so much enjoyed by members that he is returning later this year to speak on another of his diving experiences. When no speakers were available, afternoons were interesting with conversation and playing 'Janice's bingo'. A tea party was held in the hall to finish off 2014 and was a bit like the Ritz! The last meeting before Christmas was the usual mince pies and wine. The AGM returned the same leaders; Velma Crossman as Chairman, Janice Varnam as Treasurer and Joan Kendall as Press Officer. The anniversary lunch was held a few weeks ago at the Sportsman's and was much enjoyed by all.

• **Strete Parish Hall – Roy Kendall**

Sadly the hall is not used as much as it used to be in the past. Organisations who do book it on a regular basis are the Short Mat Bowls Club who use it every Tuesday evening and whenever they have a home match in the season, the Social Club fortnightly and of course the lunch club every month. They have tried running folk dancing every month on a Saturday evening, the money from which paid the hall hire and any profit was shared between the hall and the Church. Latterly a whist drive has been occasionally held on a Monday or Friday. Sadly they have had to rely on people coming from outside the village to support these events and due to those numbers now dwindling the dances have now ceased. There is a little support from villagers for the Whist Drive. There is a new art group meeting once a month and of course the election will bring in revenue. They have a contractor to cut the grass and Julia and Alan Makepeace and Penny Penhale are keeping the flower beds and tubs looking nice.

• **Stretewise Village Magazine – Malcolm Hollis**

Malcolm reported that he has edited Stretewise since 2011 with a total of 21 editions. The magazine continues to provide reliable and independent reporting and details of activities and entertaining within and around the parish. Income for 2015 is above that for 2014, advertising revenue has remained buoyant, subs have increased and printing costs will be within budget. Subs for 2015 are £400, including donations, and the advertising income has risen from £390 in 2012 to around £700 this year. All income and expenditure is managed through the Stretewise account at Lloyds Bank. Printing costs have reduced from £1531 in 2011 to projected 2015 costs of about £914. Etched trophies/prize costs are estimated at £120 pa. The loss of 2012 has been eliminated by a donation. Last year the magazine managed a surplus and this year is in danger of making a profit! These profits will be returned to the community as and when appropriate. In 2013 the magazine upgraded to all colour, added a website, started the email alerts and added two competitions. Please notify the Editor if you have any newsworthy alerts the parish needs to be aware of. The magazine would not exist without a dedicated band of supporters who deliver to all subscribers. Malcolm paid tribute to Chris Burne, Brenda Range, Shirley and John Goldring, Colleen Seymour, David Wall, Liane Baldock and Andrea Hollis who have undertaken this task since he took over and thanks also to Joan Kendall, Daphne Saich, Andrea Phillips, Lynne Swainston (currently in China) and Andrew and Lesley Kemp. He welcomed Heather Robinson and Rosemarie Stevens this year. Challenges are to maintain the quality as well as manage profitability and it is important when replying to advertisements in the magazine to mention Stretewise.

• **Strete Village Day – Jeremy Swainston**

No report was available.

• **Strete Conservation Group – Ralph Clark**

Since 2013 the group are encouraged as many points raised have been actioned but it is disappointing that due to hold-ups with the Housing Needs Survey that the Neighbourhood Plan remains outstanding. Other parishes have set up sub-committees in preparation of a NP and even with help offered, this was considered unnecessary. The HNS was limited and did not provide space for comments and he trusts the results will be made public. It was good to see a big turnout against the closure of the pub which demonstrates to him that the village is not in danger of dying out. The coastal path will bring new people into the village. The Group would like to thank members of the PC for service to the community. TC replied that the PC has worked hard too in trying to get the pub re-opened, RC replied that he has seen nothing in the minutes.

**AP15/5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

This was postponed until JB's arrival.

**AP15/6 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Referring to Andrew Pounds report, Richard Foss reiterated the need for volunteers as he has been with the Coastguards for many years and has worked with Andrew on callouts many times. He has seen younger members develop into very useful helpers in the community. RF was amazed to see so many people here for the village pub meeting, people will always have differences but they will always come together for parish issues. On the T18 process, there are still issues such as the planning department and if anyone has any problems, then please go to RF. It is purely a money saving exercise and it is working. Frontline services remain uncut. Whoever comes into power in the elections, will make further cuts and this makes the T18 process still necessary afterwards. There will be £7.7m savings whilst retaining 100% frontline services and T18 will protect the third lowest council tax in Devon, and SHDC have frozen parking charges for five years. Recycling levels are the highest in Devon. SHDC received a Business Award for helping small businesses such as when the storms hit Torcross. The shingle moving at Slapton and a new scoping study will be carried out. The coastal road is worth £5m to the local community and if this need can be proven there will be more funding for the area as a consequence. The shingle is still moving, channel dredging can't be used as it has in other areas, if it could have, all the problems would be removed. RF is standing again in the District Council elections and he hopes he has done a good enough job to be elected once again but it remains to be seen. The new Wards will contain different areas with new names, ours being Allington & Strete ward.

Ian Coates asked RF how much is being spent on the redevelopment of the reception area at Follaton House? RF said it had been costed out and is in budget although he doesn't have the figures available at the moment. On the top floor, there are now no walls or cubicles in the larger offices, it is all open plan and much improved. There will be a projected £3.5m of savings after the re-laying out of working areas. There are plans for income generation and the new layouts are in preparation of this. But as a consequence no local businesses will be undercut, there will be no subsidies in charges.

**AP15/7 POLICE REPORT**

No report or apologies were submitted and it was noted that the police had not attended or communicated for over a year.

**AP15/8 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

TC reported that because of age and wear and tear this is his final report as Chairman of a Parish Council because after serving as a Councillor for 29 years, 13 years in North Somerset and 16 years in Strete, he thinks it is probably the right time to buy a deck chair, sit back, criticise others and try to enjoy life to the full! He gave thanks to everyone who has made a report here tonight; they are the backbone of a community village. Our village is at long last about to go on the map as one of the special wonders of the South West Coast Path after waiting for over half a century. Many obstacles have had to be overcome to achieve this final result and we should all be very grateful to the many Devon agencies involved as well as those who have supported a better way to walk, rather than on the roads and up through the back lanes! Yes, it's a change, but certainly a change for the better. The present Council members have endured some unfair and uninformed criticism over the past twelve months by some people who should have known better. That's a great pity as they are all unpaid volunteers who have spent much time and energy looking after the interests of all members of the community, rather than a chosen few who only have their own self interests in mind! All details of our deliberations and activities are published in the minutes and are available on the website, the notice boards and in Stretewise magazine. A special thank you goes to Julian Brazil, our County Councillor and to Richard Foss, our District Councillor for their attendance and strong support throughout the year. Also to Andrea for working above and beyond her duties as Parish Clerk, through difficult times. Keep this village tidy and we may be able to enter into the Best Kept Small Village competition once again after a lapse of 21 years! Goodnight and may God bless you all.

**AP15/9 OPEN FORUM**

No matters or questions were raised.

The Chairman invited all present to stay for refreshments, after which the PC meeting will commence.

**AP15/10 THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2016 AT 7.00 P.M. IN STRETE PARISH HALL.**

**THE MEETING WAS CLOSED**  
at 7.45 p.m.

Signed: .....

(Chairman)

Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015