

STOKE FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES

193. A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

194. Present: Cllr B Morris (Chairman)
Councillors: Mr H Yabsley Lady M Newman Miss L Willetts
Mr K Baigrie Mr B Shearwood Mr B Norman

195. Apologies: Cllr P Elliott (Vice Chairman) Cllr. R Harris

196. In Attendance: County Councillor J Brazil One member of the general public

197. The minutes of the last Monthly Meeting and Site Meeting were circulated and read, amended and agreed as a correct record of those meetings.

198. Joint Statement:

The following joint statement was given by Cllr. Brazil on behalf of himself and Cllr. Longrigg: 'Over the past few months it has become apparent to both Ian and myself that Stoke Fleming parish Council has not been working as it should. Instead of working for the local community it appears that individual vendettas and personal crusades are now driving certain members of the council. While healthy and open debate is to be encouraged this is not an excuse for malicious, vindictive and uncivil behaviour. No one and no Parish Council is perfect, but Stoke Fleming Parish Council has a lot to be proud of in its recent past. It may be pertinent for members of this council to ask themselves 'what have I achieved for the local community?' before being so quick to criticise others. If mistakes have been made then there is the due process to look into these and rectify them where necessary. I understand that the National Standards Board and the Monitoring Officer at SHDC have investigated a number of complaints. On each occasion they have found that there is no case to answer. You may not agree with those rulings but it is time to move on. Ian and myself believe that these issues need to be resolved. At present we feel there is little point in attending Parish Council meetings. We will of course be readily contactable and endeavour to resolve any issues that may arise with the District or County Council. In the meantime we hope for a speedy resolution and a quick return to a constructive and productive Parish Council.' Cllr. Brazil handed the letter to the Chairman and left the meeting.

199. Public Question Time:

The Chairman asked Mr P Hunkin if he had a question for the Council. Mr Hunkin said he did not have any questions but asked if he could address the council, not to criticise but bring to attention the rumours and adverse comments which are at present circulating the village. Threats, business by email and personal crusades were being pursued by some members. He hoped the council would take these rumours and comments seriously, draw a line and put this Parish Council back to its former respected position. He hoped the Chairman would stay on the Council and reminded all members that their Parish Clerk was a 'jewel'. Please think of the future, unite as a team and represent this Parish fully. The Chairman thanked Mr Hunkin for his address.

200. Law and Order: Nothing to report

201. Matters Arising:

a. Parish and Neighbourhood Maintenance:

The Clerk reported that a new catch had been fitted to the gate leading onto the Playing Field (Stoke Lodge Entrance). The toilet block on School Road had been decorated by SHDC. Repairs have been carried out on the roof of the bus shelter opposite the Sportsman's Arms. Voluntary work had been carried out maintaining the churchyard. The volunteers also thanked the Vice Chairman for the loan of his vehicle to transfer all the green waste up to the composting centre. The telephone line has now been

connected to Tremlett House on Church Road. Action by the clerk stopped a new telegraph pole being erected at the drive entrance to Tremlett House and a large expanse of telephone cable. BT's proposed action in this case was caused by their poor public relations. They failed to ask permission to enter the property of the Green Dragon Public House and were rightfully asked to leave by the Landlord. The clerk liaised between the landlord, Brewery and BT resulting in a small line connection from the present pole in Rectory Lane to Tremlett House.

b. Traffic Plan – Village Centre - Report:

The clerk reported that two quotes had been received for drawing up a landscape scheme for the new car park. Following a short briefing on both quotes, the Chairman proposed that Fiona Kyte, Landscape Architect be asked to complete the task. Seconded by Cllr. Shearwood and carried unanimously. Clerk to pursue.

c. Annual Review - Clerk:

Clerk to be contacted shortly by the sub-committee.

d. Parish Website - Report:

Cllr. Newman reported that the sub-committee would be meeting Mr B Eaglesfield tomorrow evening (3rd April 2008).

e. Coleridge Report:

The Clerk reported on the last meeting which was held at Sherford Village Hall on Tuesday 11th March 2008. The speaker was Mr D Incoll, Chief Executive, South Hams District Council. He spoke in general terms about shared services with West Devon and Teignmouth, budget details and the ongoing review of Dustbin Collection Rounds. He promised a new plan would be in place within the next two months. He also spoke about the present Local Government Review and indicated that SHDC would like to form a Unitary Authority with West Devon and Teignmouth. He confirmed, along with Cllr. Brazil that the County Council would prefer a single unitary authority, Devon Rural with the City of Exeter.

The clerk also confirmed that he gave a full report on the meeting held with Mr C Lucas on 30th January 2008 with regards to Area Maintenance. The Chief Executive mentioned this meeting in very favourable terms along with the Chairman of Coleridge. The next Coleridge meeting is at Slapton Village Hall on 10th June 2008.

f. Youth Council - Report:

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the original aims and ambitions of the Youth Council. He gave examples of the outcome of those early years and asked for volunteers to help continue the Youth Council. Cllr's Newman and Shearwood would be pleased to carry out this task. The clerk would assist where necessary.

g. Street Lighting – Report:

Mr L Pym, County Lighting Engineer had confirmed to the clerk that the survey team would shortly be in the village. He also confirmed that he would look and advise on the 'Birdwalk'. The clerk informed councillors that he had updated Mr R Elliott on progress so far.

202. Finance:

a. Accounts Update. As at 2nd April 2008

Treasurers Account £160.10
A/L Savings Account £11,075.23

b. Accounts to be paid:

Mr G Sams £61.50
Clerk's Salary & Expenses £442.77 (393.08 + 49.69)

RV Harris & Son	£58.75
DAPC	£180.00
DPFA	£15.00
SHDC (Planning Application)	£67.50
Stoke Fleming Magazine	£11.16
Public Works Loans Account	£1,111.23

It was proposed by Cllr. Willetts that the accounts be paid. Seconded by Cllr. Shearwood and carried unanimously.

203. Planning: Application:

- a. 51/0564/08/F Alterations & extension to existing dwelling
High Cottage, Church Road, Stoke Fleming

The Parish Council fully approved the application. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr. Newman and carried unanimously.

b. Local Government Review for Devon:

A proposed Single Unitary Authority plan had been prepared by the clerk for presentation to the Boundary Committee for England (TBCFE). Following a short debate the Chairman proposed that this plan be approved by the Parish Council and forwarded to TBCFE, seconded by Cllr. Baigrie and carried unanimously. The Chairman thanked the clerk for his excellent work. Cllr. Baigrie and the clerk would attend the subject meeting at Ivybridge on 10th April 2008.

204. Correspondence:

The following were tabled: Winter Newsletter 2008; DAPC Newsletter; SHDC minutes 06.03.08 and 27.03.08; SHDC Forward Plan; DCC In Touch; Devon Talk; Village Green.

- a. The clerk briefed the meeting regarding the main points in the reply from SHDC on the Parish Cluster Meeting held on 13th December 2007. Due to this reply only being received on 27th March 2008, Councillors felt a letter of complaint should be forwarded to the District Council. Clerk to pursue.
- b. The clerk read a letter from the secretary to the PCC inviting all members to the APCM on 17th April 2008.
- c. The clerk read a letter from the Affordable Housing Enabling Officer confirming the allocation of a social rented home in the village.

205. Any other business:

- a. Cllr. Newman brought up the problems of illegal parking in 'Bidders' bus lay-by. The Chairman said this was an ongoing problem which the police are keeping an eye on. Also the increase in dog faeces around the local area. The clerk said he would ask the Editor of the Parish Magazine to mention this problem in the next monthly edition. He would also see if he could get some new metal signs to replace the old faded ones.
- b. Cllr. Willetts asked if the Parish Council Monthly Report in the Parish Magazine could be scaled down. All councillors agreed.

206. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

207. The date for Annual General Meeting and the next Monthly Meeting was arranged for 7th May 2008 at 7pm in the Village Hall.