

STOKE FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES

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

257. **PRESENT:** Lady Newman (Chairman)
Mr B. Shearwood (Vice Chairman)
Councillors: Mr H. Yabsley Mr K. Baigrie Mr. P. Elliott Mr B. Norman

258. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. R. Harris, Cllr. L. Willetts

259. **IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor J. Brazil, District Councillor I. Longrigg
Three members of the public.

260. **THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the last meeting were circulated, read and agreed as a correct record of that meeting. Cllr. Baigrie brought an Amendment to the Council's attention. In Minutes dated 5th March 2008, 181. Planning i. Site Meeting – Frenchman's Creek it stated Cllr P. Elliott in attendance (representing the applicant). Cllr. Baigrie stressed Cllr. Elliott should not have represented the applicant if he was there in his capacity as a councillor. Cllr. Elliott agreed but stated the applicant had been unwell and he was there to give him support. The Chairman agreed to minute the amendment.

261. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** (A) Chairman. (14) Car Park, Mill Lane

262. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

Mr. C. Trant said that the volunteers who prepared for the Best Kept Village Competition were not being supported by the District Council. The drastic cuts in manpower left the grass uncut and the litter-pick and general sweeping of the village to the volunteers. The bottle bank had also been left to overflow. Boxes and bags of bottles were left in the car park on School Road. This causes major safety problems. The volunteers had to deal with the problem. There seemed to be no priority for area maintenance in rural areas causing an ever increasing problem for the local area. The District Councillor supported these comments. Cllr. Baigrie reminded the meeting of how the Coleridge Members dealt with Mrs. P. Brooks (Operations Director, SHDC) on this same subject. All the Coleridge members recommended no cuts in front line staff but to improve the standard of area maintenance at the January 2008 meeting.

Mr. M. Simons spoke about the recent problems over access in Church Road caused by illegal parking. The Chairman proposed that a letter would be forwarded to S.H.D.C. with regards to this issue. Mr Simons also asked if the grass could be cut at the Weeke Hill, A379 junction in the interests of safety. Clerk to pursue.

Mr. L. Emberson gave each councillor two letters dated 29/6/05 & 31/5/08 he had written regarding the proposed 5 a-side football on the Playing Field. He spoke of his concerns and past problems with this facility living so close to the Playing Field. Discussion followed on how the 5 a-side could be safely played on the Playing Field. The new goals posts, fully sponsored by Cllr. Elliott, should arrive shortly. It was not possible to 'fix' one goal so that they might only be used on the marked pitch as this might damage the surface for the forthcoming season. The village football club only use them on the football pitch for practise but others are free to use them on the Field. The Chairman agreed that the proposed new 5 a-side facility would be controlled by the Parish Council and they will closely monitor the situation.

263. **LAW AND ORDER:** Nothing to report

264. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT :**

Cllr. Brazil reported that he had many complaints around his area with regards to area maintenance. He felt that the District Councillors had been misled by the District Council over the latest staff cuts. If the Parish Clerk had not informed him at the last Monthly Meeting he probably would not have known about them. He reported that the Boundary Committee would publish their proposal on 7th July 2008 which would then be followed by a three month consultation period. He felt that the proposed Public Meeting for the Digital changeover was a good idea. He also said that local councillors would know the most vulnerable people within the local community who could be helped. He felt funds could be found to build the proposed new indoor swimming pool for Dartmouth and District but the annual running costs would be the major obstacle to overcome.

265. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

Cllr. Longrigg fully supported the proposed new swimming pool. He said that Dartmouth was the only market town in the South Hams not to have one. He felt it would provide an excellent facility for all and should prove very popular long term. He would attend the Executive Meeting at Follaton House on 10th July 2008 to fully support the Coleridge Association. In his opinion, the leadership of S.H.D.C was weak and had been manipulated in the staff cuts for 'on street' workers around the full district. He objected to the staff cuts.

266. **CURRENT PARISH PROJECTS UPDATE**

a) **Parish and Neighbourhood Maintenance.**

Broken branches on two separate occasions have been removed by Mr. Alan Pook from the horse chestnut close to the entrance to the Playing Field from Cinders Lane. A major branch had been removed from the holly tree on Ravensbourne Lane. New street signs had been ordered for Gratton Close and a wall mounted sign for Shady Lane. The grass bank from Henry's Halt to Redlap junction and the full length of Redlap Lane have been cut.

b) **Coleridge Report**

The Clerk reported that the last quarterly meeting was held on Tuesday 10th June 2008 at Slapton Village Hall. The new Chairman was Cllr. V. Mercer (Slapton) with Cllr. M. Newman (Stoke Fleming) the new Vice-Chairman. It was agreed that the Coleridge Association would question the Executive at S.H.D.C. on 10th July 2008 with regards to the staff cuts to Area Maintenance for rural South Hams. It was proposed by the Chairman that a special meeting would be held in either August or September to discuss the Boundary Committee's proposal for Devon.

c) **Notice Board Venn Lane**

The site for the new notice board would be viewed by members at the next planning site meeting.

d) **Bidders Close Parking**

The Clerk reported that he had placed a leaflet in all local properties and placed a notice in the Parish Magazine asking for their assistance in not parking within 20 metres of the junction of Bidders Close and the A379.

e) **BT Payphone**

The Clerk reported that a letter had been forwarded to BT Payphones in Croydon objecting to the removal of the payphone on the Dartmouth Road.

267. **PARISH REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

a) **Library Users Group**

The Chairman reported that the Village Library was doing quite well and was reasonably busy for the time of year.

b) **Parish Hall Representative**

Cllr. Elliott resigned as the Parish Council Representative. He was replaced by Cllr. Norman.

268. **VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Two members of the general public had applied for the vacant post of Parish Councillor. Mrs. B. Griffiths and Mr. R.D.O.Foster. The Clerk to talk to both about the post. A meeting is to be arranged before the end of July and both candidates will be interviewed. The successful candidate will be adopted at the August meeting.

269. **PARISH PLAYING FIELD**

The Clerk provided each councillor with a Policy Document for the Village Playing Field date 1st April 2004 for discussion at the next meeting. Cllr. Elliott gave a full report on how the Village Football Club had evolved over the years. It now has 2 teams. He reported that the new aluminium framed, fully sponsored, 5 a-side goals would be an advantage for youngsters and the club as a training aid. The plastic frames used last year had not been robust enough. The club would start training on 16th July 2008 and it was hoped that more local youngsters would join the club. The two bench seats placed either side of the half-way line would be sadolined the same shade as all the other seats around the village. He apologised for placing the two posts between the seats but proposed that a first aid box be sited there, dowel pegs installed to allow track suits to be hung and a removal notice board be hung during the match to keep the public aware of the score. The Vice-Chairman reminded the meeting that the two posts were voted against at a previous meeting. The Chairman was happy with the benches and would tolerate the posts. Cllr. Norman proposed that the proposals forwarded by Cllr. Elliott be adopted for the two posts, seconded by Cllr. Yabsley and carried unanimously. The Clerk reported that he was awaiting replies to his enquiries from other football clubs regarding their costs of renting pitches. The Chairman would seek advice from the Insurance Company regarding the 5 a-side game.

270. **DIGITAL TELEVISION**

The Vice-Chairman reported on progress so far with UK Digital. They had advised that we wait until the end of 2008 before taking any further action. The Vice-Chairman felt that the Parish Council should take action well before then. He would also check the dates of the changeover for our area in 2009.

271. **CAR PARK – MILL LANE**

The Clerk reported that the final details were being dealt with by the landowner and his agent prior to the Parish Council submitting the plans to SHDC for planning.

272. **CLERK AND COUNCILLORS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Chairman explained the differing roles of the Parish Councillors and the Clerk. The Councillors represent the council to the community, and the community to the council, using all appropriate means. They deal with enquiries and representations fairly and without prejudice. They cannot make a decision alone. The Clerk is the proper officer of the council in law. He is a team member providing legal and financial advice to support the council's decisions. He is answerable only to the council as a whole.

Training was available for everyone if required and all members should act as a team.

273. **CLERK'S TRAINING**

The Vice-Chairman proposed that the Parish Council purchase a new laptop for the Clerk with a limit of £350.00. Seconded by the Chairman and carried unanimously.

274. **WEBSITE REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the sponsorship had increased to £2700.00 with annual payments received so far standing at £150.

275. **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Cllr. Baigrie reported that a member of the public had suggested to him that with the opening of the new Sainsburys in Townstal it would be a good idea to re-route the Nr. 93 bus via there in future. Councillors felt this was an excellent idea and Cllr. Baigrie would contact the bus company and Sainsburys. A report would be given at the August meeting.

276. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Cllr. Longrigg reported that the process was moving forward, although slowly. The Clerk was awaiting a report from Mrs D. Holloway, S.H.D.C.

277. **FINANCE**

a) <u>Accounts Update</u>	2 nd July 2008
Treasurers Account	£1437.78
A/L Saving Account	£11,190.33
c) <u>Accounts to be paid</u>	
Mr. G. Sams	£67.01 (£61.50 + 5.51)
Clerks Salary & expenses	£415.95 (£393.08 +22.87)
R.V. Harris & Son	£193.87
Stoke Fleming Magazine	£7.92
Garden time	£25.00

It was proposed by the Vice-Chairman that the accounts be paid. Seconded by Cllr. Baigrie and carried unanimously.

278. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following were tabled:

SHDC Minutes 26/6/08
Executive Meeting 29/5/08
SHDC Forward Plan
Devon Talk
DCC In Touch
South Devon & Dartmoor Community Safety Newsletter
Rural Community Buildings
DAPC Newsletter
Devon Countryside Access Forum
South Hams Magazine

- a) The Clerk read a letter from Mr. G. Sams with regard to undergrowth in Shady Lane. The Clerk to speak to Mr R. Eales about possible strimming of the area.
- b) Christmas Tree Festival. Chairman to accept entry from the organisers.
- c) The Clerk reported that the County Council had recommended that Townstal Post Office should not be closed.
- d) S.H.D.C. would hold a meeting in Dartmouth at the Guildhall to discuss the Boundary Committee's proposal for Devon on 30th July 2008 at 7.00pm.

279. **PLANNING**

1. Applications: None
2. Decisions:

- A. 51/0975/07/F Alterations and minor amendments for a new dwelling in place of existing bungalow. Frenchmans Creek, Stoke Fleming.
Application withdrawn

B. 51/1771/07/F Re-submission of application 51/1301/06/F for conversion Change of use of barn to three permanent residential dwellings and erection of attached garaging. Venn Barn, Venn, Dartmouth.

Approved S.H.D.C.

C. 51/0733/08/F Alterations to existing flue pipe and soil vent pipe, retrospective application for the provision of glass guarding to windows and landscaping of front forecourt. The Old Chapel, Chapel Lane, Stoke Fleming.

Approved S.H.D.C.

D. 51/0718/08/F Conversion of barn to provide games room., laundry, computer suite and storage. Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth.

Approved S.H.D.C.

E 51/0893/08/F Re-submission of planning application 51/0044/08/F for alteration to farmhouse and amendment to planning approval 51/0855/05/F for conversion of barn. Little Cotton Farm, Dartmouth.

Application withdrawn.

280. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.14pm.

281. The date for the next monthly meeting was arranged for 6th August 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.