

**Stoke Fleming Parish Council**  
**Monthly Meeting**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors - Lady Newman (Chairman)  
B Shearwood (Vice Chairman)  
B Norman  
R Foster  
H Yabsley  
P Elliott

Devon County Councillor: Julian Brazil  
SHDC Councillor Ian Longrigg  
Digital UK Dave Farwig  
Member of Public Mike Simons

**424. Apologies** Cllr. L Willetts  
Cllr. K Baigrie

**425. Minutes**  
The minutes of the last monthly meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008 and the two site meetings held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 were circulated and read. One amendment was made to item 405. Cllr. Norman proposed and Cllr. Foster seconded the Minutes. All were then agreed and signed as a correct record of those meetings.

**426. Declarations Of Interest**  
The Chairman declared an interest in the proposed car park, Mill Lane.

**427. Public Question Time**  
No points were raised.

**428. Law And Order**  
The Chairman had spoken with Ian Simons who had very few issues to raise. PCSO Sam Broad will take up her position on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 with responsibility for Slapton, Stoke Fleming and Strete. It is hoped that she will attend the February meeting. The Chairman reported one anti-social order in the village but had no further information.

**429. County Councillor's Report**  
Cllr. Brazil reported:

- A. DCC had agreed to contribute 1.5m towards a swimming pool at Dartmouth although 1.5m capital still needs to be raised, together with a business plan for the annual running costs. He stressed that this funding is a step in the right direction but there is still a lot of work to do to achieve a swimming pool.
- B. The council tax rise for the coming year will be 2.9%.
- C. The Boundary Committee decision has been delayed until mid February. The timing will be very tight before local elections and Cllr. Brazil advised, that in his opinion, the whole thing may be shelved.
- D. If there is anything he can do to help with the Library Users Group to let him know. The Chairman advised that although there had been an increase in usage this is now dropping off again. Cllr. Brazil suggested he could help with perhaps a leaflet drop, or that the coffee morning idea continue.

Cllr. Foster asked where the funding for the boundary commission work comes from? Cllr. Brazil said it comes from general taxation, not from the council tax.

**430. District Councillor Report**

Cllr. Longrigg reported:

- A. He agreed with Cllr. Brazil that the proposed Boundary Committee changes might possibly not go ahead.
- B. He has contacted the planning officer to arrange a site meeting at Silver Cloud having met with the Overseas residents earlier today.

**431. Digital UK – Presentation by Mr Dave Farwig**

Dave Farwig from Digital UK advised that digital television will be replacing the current analogue system of viewing so that people who currently only receive 4 channels will be able to receive all available channels. It is also hoped that in areas (such as Stoke Fleming) which suffer from poor reception, digital television will improve reception. The West Country is the first region to go digital. There are 5 main transmitters in the whole area with an additional 100 relay/booster stations that will transmit the digital signal. Stoke Fleming is generally fed by the Totnes and Start Point relay stations. The two main transmitters for this area are Beacon Hill near Exeter (which feeds Totnes relay station) and Carroden Hill in Cornwall (which feed Start Point relay station). It is only possible to know which transmitter you receive from by the direction of your aerial. On April 8<sup>th</sup> Beacon Hill will change to digital and August 12<sup>th</sup> Carroden Hill will change to digital. There will be a period of time when both analogue and digital will be transmitted, and during this time a message will appear on television screens advising that a digi-box is needed. The final date for Beacon Hill will be 22<sup>nd</sup> April and for Carroden Hill on 9<sup>th</sup> September, after these dates analogue signals will no longer be transmitted so if you have not changed to the digital service your television will no longer work. Dave Farwig confirmed that Sky is digital and that anyone in the village using Sky will not be affected by the switchover at all. Cllr. Norman advised that in his opinion there may be problems. Dave Farwig confirmed that no one should need to buy a new television and that a digi-box should do – prices starting at approx. £12. Dave Farwig advised that there is funding available for those eligible for help. He stressed that over the next few months a letter will be circulated, followed by 2 reminders and that Digital UK are working with Age Concern, Help the Aged etc to ensure that the elderly and vulnerable who may need help don't slip through the net. It was agreed that Dave Farwig should carry out some drop-in clinics in the village, perhaps in the library and village shop. Cllr. Shearwood will liaise and arrange these dates for entry in to the next Village Magazine. The Chairman thanked Dave Farwig for his time.

**432. Budget / Precept**

The Chairman confirmed that the proposed budget / precept for 2009/10 prepared by herself, Cllr. Norman and Cllr. Foster will remain the same as last year. The figure being requested is £12,822 (twelve thousand, eight hundred and twenty two pounds). Cllr. Shearwood proposed and Cllr. Foster seconded the budget / precept. The Chairman advised that a statutory amount payable to Dapc could be taken at source prior to the money being received by the Parish Council. After discussion it was agreed that the full amount would be requested and a cheque would be issued for the £185 due to Dapc. The Chairman and Clerk both signed the budget / precept form to be submitted to SHDC.

**433. BT Telephone Box**

Nothing to report

**434. Children's Play Area**

Nothing to report. The Chairman suggested that this issue needs chasing.

**435. Parish Playing Field**

Cllr. Elliott confirmed he had met with Stuart Longrigg regarding the football club usage. Cllr. Elliott will chase Bob Benns regarding the proposed new changing rooms. The Chairman advised that the football club hasn't paid any money to the Parish Council so far this season. Cllr. Elliott confirmed that a fee should be due for each match played and that he will look in to this and report back.

**436. Car Park At Mill Lane**

The Chairman handed all the files referring to the car park to Cllr. Elliott, who confirmed he had also received some additional correspondence earlier that day. Cllr. Elliott will now arrange a meeting of the sub-committee (Cllr. Elliott, Cllr. Norman and Mr M Simons) for next week. Cllr. Elliott advised that there is just a boundary issue remaining. Cllr. Elliott also confirmed he will speak to Bob Benns and get a quote organized. He already has one quote from Kim Tucker. Cllr. Elliott asked where the funding would be found for this project? Cllr. Longrigg commented that there is a grant that may be available. Cllr. Elliott will make enquiries (contacts are [alanstapleton@btinternet.com](mailto:alanstapleton@btinternet.com) and [liz@ruraldevon.org](mailto:liz@ruraldevon.org)). The Chairman stressed the need to get the plans finalized so the costings could be obtained ASAP, and also requested that Cllr. Elliott take into consideration the comments from the villagers in the correspondence handed over to him in the files.

**437. MCTi**

Nothing to report

**438. Magazine Minutes**

The Chairman asked if anyone had any comments on the minutes published in the January edition of the village magazine? The Chairman expressed concern that the minutes have to be a précised due to lack of space, but that in her opinion the précised version isn't a true reflection of the council meetings. After discussion it was agreed by all that it is essential everyone in the village has access to the full minutes so the minutes will continue to appear on the village website, and that the Clerk will put a couple of copies in both the library and the village shop. A notice will be placed in the next village magazine to this effect.

**439. Stoke Fleming Primary School**

The Chairman suggested that a letter of support be forwarded to Michael Rolls, Headmaster of Stoke Fleming Primary School, as the school, one of only 19 in Devon, has been highlighted as outstanding. After discussion it was agreed to try to form a closer relationship with the school.

**440. New Councillor**

The Clerk explained that notices had been posted on the notice boards advising of this vacancy, and today was the last day that SHDC could receive a request from a parishioner to hold an election. The Clerk confirmed that if nothing has been received the Parish Council can co-opt a new councillor. Cllr. Elliott pointed out that there is a notice board at Bugford as well as two in the village. With this in mind it was agreed that a notice would be placed in the next village magazine and on the three village notice boards inviting applications to fill the position. It was also agreed that Cllr. Norman would speak to Beryl Griffiths who had previously expressed an interest in becoming a councillor.

**441. Slapton Line**

The Chairman advised that there is ongoing communication circulating from the Slapton Line Advisory Forum about the risk of road closures but it may be more interesting to landowners rather than the Parish Council as it may only become pertinent in 20 / 30 / 50 years time. Their last meeting gave an up-date on the new routes north and south if the Slapton Line is breached, the media coverage and the improvements to the bastions along Slapton. Next meeting will be held in Stokenham Village Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm.

**442. Recycling Banks**

The Chairman reiterated that the recycling banks had been moved at very short notice. They have been temporarily sited at Leonard's Cove but this is not a long term solution. It would seem that the new contractor cannot get his skip lorry up Church Road. Cllr. Elliott advised that he has seen bigger lorries using Church Road and that therefore it is possible. After discussion, during which no alternative suitable site could be thought of, it was agreed that the Parish Council will write, requesting the skips are put back to their original site. It was agreed is the best place for them. Furthermore it will be suggested to the contractors that they liaise with a nominated person so that Church Road can be cleared temporarily allowing the skip lorry access to the skips when they need to be emptied and they should come between the hours of 9.00am and 2.30pm.

**443. Street Lighting**

The Chairman confirmed that she had left a message for Mr Pym asking if it is possible for them to remove some of the lighting around the village hall area and re-place them up towards Premier Garage and also to look at lighting in the Bird Walk.

**444. Maintenance**

- a. Grass Cutting – DCC nothing to report
- b. Grass Cutting SHDC – nothing to report
- c. Grass Cutting within the village – nothing to report
- d. Sponsored Flower Tubs – The Chairman confirmed that a list has now been found and that Cllr. Willetts will look at this and report back.
- e. Damage To Wall Opposite Stoke Lodge Hotel – Cllr. Elliott confirmed that he has looked and doesn't think any action is required at the moment, although he did stress that in his opinion the whole of the wall / hedging along the playing field may need replacing, over the next 20 years or so. The Chairman asked whether this would be Highways, and Cllr. Elliott and Cllr. Yabsley suggested it was the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- f. Damage To Jubilee Shelter – Cllr. Shearwood confirmed that he has spoken to Mr Sams although no action has yet been taken. It was felt that perhaps this is a bigger job than originally thought and after discussion Cllr. Norman volunteered to tackle this, once the weather warms up a little. The Chairman noted that there are some cracked paving slabs around the Jubilee Shelter, and that the lid on the standpipe outside the toilet block is broken again. Cllr. Elliot suggested that to just keep replacing the lid isn't the answer. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Norman will look in to these issues and report back.

**445. Library Users Group**

Again, the Chairman reiterated that after an increase in usage, this trend has now leveled off, and she stressed that if the library isn't used it will not survive.

**Parish Hall Management Group**

Cllr. Norman advised that a meeting is held every other month and therefore there is nothing to report. Cllr. Norman suggested that a letter needs to be written from the Parish Council requesting usage of space for the new filing cabinet, for consideration at the next meeting.

**446. Recycling Banks – see 442**

**447. Finance**

- a. Bank Balance at date of meeting – no figures available at this meeting
- b. Accounts to be paid – cheques to be approved for signature

Mr G Sams	£61-50
K H & D A White Clerk	£94-00 (hedge trimming – playing field) £205-75
Mr K Baigrie	£80-00 (purchase of filing cabinets)
Mr K Baigrie	£373-73 (purchase of laptop for use by Clerk)

**448. Diary Dates**

The Chairman advised that the Coleridge Group, meeting scheduled for next week, has been cancelled due to illness. The Chairman stressed the importance and value of this group and expressed her hope that the meetings will be resumed in March.

Cllr. Foster advised that the South Hams Precept Meeting is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Cllr. Foster attended last years meeting and found it most useful.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Longrigg whether the Parish Council need to attend the appeal meeting for 51/2524/07F at Strawberry Valley Cllr. Longrigg advised it was not necessary to attend.

**449. Correspondence**

None received

**450. Planning**

a) SHDC Tree Preservation Order at The Drive, Hillfield, Bugford

b) 51/2275/08/F Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of new dwelling to include decks and swimming pool at Silver Cloud, Overseas Estate, Stoke Fleming.

Cllr. Longrigg has requested this goes to a full council Planning Meeting and advised the Parish Council that he has declared an interest due to a previous incident with a neighbour over Sheelan.

c) 51/1943/08/CU Change of use of agricultural building to B1/B8 use. Cllr. Longrigg has asked the agent to withdraw the proposed plans due to issues of caravans blocking the lanes. The agent has agreed to this and will re-submit.

d) There is a delay regarding the low cost housing proposed in School Lane due to controversy between two parties involved. Cllr. Elliott expressed his concern at this and suggested that issues should be put to one side as low cost housing is of vital importance to the village. To be on the Agenda for February meeting.

**451. Correspondence Circulating**

**South Hams Society Bulletin - Dec 08**

**Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power Consultation Book**

**Fieldwork – Dec 08**

**Village Green – Dec 08**

**Voluntary Vine – Dec 08/Feb 09**

**Devon Talk – Winter 08**

**Helping you to help Yourself information – Dec 08**

**There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.35pm. The date for the next monthly meeting is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009, in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm.**