

Stoke Fleming Parish Council  
Monthly Meeting

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors: Bob Shearwood (Vice Chairman)  
Phil Elliott Beryl Griffiths  
Richard Foster Bob Norman  
Julian Brazil, Devon County Councillor (8.10-9.12pm)  
PCSO Sam Broad, Devon & Cornwall Constabulary (7.20-7.40pm)  
Mr P Bailey Mrs C Coupar  
Mr B Clark Mrs B Foster  
Mrs Shirley Tonkin (8.30-8.45pm)

**822. APOLOGIES** Councillors: Mary Newman (Chairman), Lucy Willetts  
Ian Longrigg, South Hams District Councillor

**823. MINUTES**  
The minutes of the last monthly meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010 were circulated and read. Cllr Foster proposed and Cllr Norman seconded that the minutes be accepted. They were then agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

**824. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Councillor Elliott declared an interest in Minute 830, Site Allocation Development Plan Document Consultation, and in Minute 833, the proposed new toilet/shower block. Councillor Shearwood declared an interest in Minute 843 b) Accounts to be paid, for the Village Shop payment.

**825. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**  
Cllr Shearwood thanked the members of the public attending the meeting. There were no comments from those present.

**826. LAW AND ORDER**

- a) PCSO Sam Broad advised that there had been no reportable crime and that the area was still very quiet. Cllr Shearwood had informed her of the theft of a slate sign from Manor Court in Rectory Lane; PCSO Broad will investigate and report back on any developments. Concern had been expressed at speeding in the village and police planned a presence with the speed gun in the near future. They also planned to tackle some low level anti-social behaviour by youths in the village by police presence at appropriate times. A new PCSO had been recruited and trained, to deal with Townstal, so PCSO Broad would have more time in future for this area.
- b) South Devon and Dartmoor Project Funding to reduce crime/anti-social behaviour – the Clerk informed Councillors that approximately £50,000 was available to bid for in 2010/11 for any suitable projects.

**827. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**  
Councillor Brazil gave an update, reporting that unitary status had been granted to Exeter. He said that annual budgets were being prepared and there were particular pressures on funding for care of the elderly. The trial of turning off street lighting in residential areas at night (already in operation in Stoke Fleming) was being extended to other areas. Anyone with any issues about street lighting should contact Devon County Council. Dartmouth Community College and the Primary School are to merge into one operational establishment and enter into a partnership with South Devon College.

**828. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**  
District Councillor Longrigg had sent apologies due to illness.

**829. COUNCILLORS**

- a) New Councillor  
It was agreed that Mr Paul Bailey be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to replace ex-Councillor Baigrie.
- b) Resignations
  - i. Councillor Lucy Willetts had submitted a formal letter of resignation. A letter of thanks will be sent to her. There are now two vacancies, one of which is expected to be filled at the March meeting. The Clerk will post a notice on notice boards and copy it to SHDC for the second vacancy. Anyone interested in becoming a Councillor should contact the Clerk.

- ii. Following the resignation of Councillor Henry Yabsley in January, a coffee morning has been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate his 48 years of service as a Parish Councillor. An article/invite to all will be placed in the March Village Magazine and invitations will be sent to Coleridge Association and similar groups and to Henry's family. A gift of a brass plaque commemorating his service, to be placed in Henry's Halt bus stop, was approved by Councillors. It was agreed that Councillor Foster should obtain a quote and purchase the plaque without further consultation if under £100. Councillors agreed to contribute towards the cost.

**830. SITE ALLOCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT CONSULTATION**

The Vice Chairman reported that the Open Day for consultation on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February was very well attended. 74 questionnaires were completed, although a number of people visited to view the plans but did not complete questionnaires. Councillor Foster was in the process of collating all the responses into a report. There had been strongly held views that affordable housing in the village should be for local people from the village and that open market homes should not be allowed to become second homes, possibly using covenants. All other comments were to stress that access for the proposed sites, and the increase in traffic, were severe problems. Parishioners expressed the view that they would like to have a say in what type of housing is planned and their design. The report would be made available to the public.

**831. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

Councillor Foster reported that a letter had been sent by the Chairman in January to the Department for Communities and Local Government, giving the views of the Parish Council relating to the Review. This was that either the present system should be left in place but with drastic cuts to the number of office-bound staff or, as an alternative, to have a unitary authority based at District level with three unitary authorities: South Devon (South Hams, West Devon and Teignbridge), North Devon (North Devon, Torridge and Mid Devon) and East Devon (Exeter and East Devon). It had been announced on 10<sup>th</sup> February that unitary status had been granted to Exeter.

**832. 2010 BUDGET/PRECEPT**

The Clerk reported that a precept of £12,822 had been requested on the basis that SHDC had previously advised that any precept under £13,302 would be liable for no increase in Council Tax. No confirmation had been received as yet.

**833. PROPOSED NEW TOILET / SHOWER BLOCK**

Planning permission had been expected by 8<sup>th</sup> February but SHDC had only visited on 9<sup>th</sup> February and decided that it was not possible to grant permission because the new building would be too close to the fencing and the house on the other side of the fence, which would block light to the property. Councillor Elliott will organise revised plans with the extension on the right hand side of the building rather than the left, which was expected to receive planning permission and allow the building work to commence soon. The legal agreement between the Parish Council and the Football Club has been drawn up, which should be kept on file by the Clerk until such time as planning permission is granted. The Clerk agreed to contact the solicitors, Hansell Wilkes to query their invoice which was higher than previously quoted.

**834. PROPOSED NEW CAR PARK**

Cllr Foster reported that he had asked BBH Architects to re-submit the application for planning permission with delineation of parking spaces and the skips removed, as required by the SHDC Planning Department. BBH had responded with a list of queries, including one about inclusion of an area of hard standing. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting.

**835. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA**

- a) Community Group / Fundraising Report  
Shirley Tonkin reported that an initial meeting had been held on 26<sup>th</sup> January to formally form the community group to enable them to apply for funding. 10 parents attended, officers were appointed, the draft constitution previously compiled was being revised to better suit their purpose, and they were in the process of opening a bank account. A first-stage funding application for £45,000 had been submitted and acknowledged, with the result expected within 8 weeks. They have been invited to apply for £15,000 from the South West Coastal Local Action Group, being compiled by one of the group's members. Councillors congratulated Mrs Tonkin on her achievements to date. Cllr Foster reported that it had been confirmed that VAT could be reclaimed on purchases for the play area but that complete and accurate records must be kept and everything purchased must be in the name of Stoke Fleming Parish Council.
- b) Insurance  
Cllr Foster had obtained a quotation for insurance for £65,000 worth of play equipment which would cost £900.90 per annum and was subject to stringent safety checks. If the Parish Council considered that the likelihood of vandalism and theft was unlikely, then the play area would not have to be insured and it would be covered for public liability by the existing Parish insurance. However, the required inspections and weekly checks would still have to be carried out. Shirley Tonkin reported that Groundwork had mentioned a figure well below this figure and it was agreed that she would further investigate the matter.

**836. SHDC ASSETS**

Councillor Foster reported that since October last year he had emailed SHDC monthly to chase a response to a list of questions he had asked about the potential transfer of assets to the Parish, without success. It was agreed that this matter be taken off the agenda. If SHDC wish the Parish Council to take responsibility for any of their assets, then they should contact the Parish Council. The Vice Chairman thanked Cllr Foster for his efforts to resolve this matter.

**837. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

Cllr Norman agreed to apply for a Parish entry into the competition and to encourage volunteers for litter picking etc.

**838. CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Cllr Brazil reported that this consultation on criteria for pupils being accepted for schools was not an issue in the Dartmouth area. The matter had been referred to Stoke Fleming school but no reaction had been received.

**839. ALAN FOX LETTER - AUSTIN A30/A35 OWNERS CLUB**

Cllr Norman reported that he had met Mr Fox of the Owners Club who had looked at the facilities available for a possible venue for their May Bank Holiday Weekend event in 2012. He had thought the playing field may be slightly smaller than they require and Cllr Norman had suggested that Deer Park site also be used. The Club will decide at their next meeting.

**840. REPORTS OF MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- a) Stokenham and area pilot information evening and review on the possibility of expanding the pilot to other councils - 11<sup>th</sup> January at Follaton House, Totnes - the Clerk reported that Cllr Newman and herself had attended the meeting. She gave an overview of the pilot to date. A questionnaire is due shortly to obtain views of local Parish Councils as to whether the pilot should be extended.
- b) SHDC Budget Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> January at Follaton House, Totnes - Cllr Foster gave a report of this meeting attended by heads and finance officials of Devon County Council, Police Authority and Fire Service to inform how their budgets were set and increases needed.

**841. MAINTENANCE**

- a) Village Maintenance –
  - i. Men's toilet in the playing field: to be repaired during works to build the new shower block and therefore it was agreed that the men's toilet would be locked and the disabled toilet be used instead.
  - ii. The shelter at the Bidders Close bus stop had been vandalised. Mr John Dunn had agreed to repair it. The old bus timetable board had also been damaged; Mr Dunn had taken the Perspex sheet away and Cllr Foster offered to remove the board as it is no longer used.
  - iii. Venn Lane water overflow had been reported to South West Water who had investigated but reported that their equipment was not to blame. The matter has been referred to Devon CC Highways Department as it appears to be emanating from a spring.
  - iv. Deer Park notice board is awaiting Cllr Newman's visit to mark on the ground where exactly it is to be put.
  - v. Ron's Corner will be tidied once the weather improves.
  - vi. The Clerk will invoice Devon County Council for hedge cutting work completed on their behalf last year.
- b) Grass Cutting – nothing to report

**842. a) LIBRARY USERS' GROUP**

Nothing to report

**b) PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT GROUP**

Cllr. Norman reported that the charge for the main hall was to be increased by £1. Work on the landscaping at the back of the hall will be carried out shortly.

**843. FINANCE**

**a) BANK BALANCE AT DATE OF MEETING**

Alliance & Leicester	£11,424.77 statement dated 6 <sup>th</sup> January 10
Lloyds TSB	£6,249.87 statement dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2010

**b) ACCOUNTS TO BE PAID**

**It was proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Foster that the following payments be approved:**

Post Office Ltd.	£16.67	EDF Energy Bill, Toilet Block, Oct 09 – Jan 10
Post Office Ltd.	£50.70	South West Water settlement bill to 8 Dec 09 (on change of clerk)
Clerk	£241.36	Wages and expenses
Stoke Fleming Village Shop	£4.61	Toilet block supplies

Stoke Fleming Village Hall	£69.00	Hire of hall Jan – June 2010 + Affiliation Fee 2010/11 £15
Mr G Sams	£72.00	Wages for cleaning toilet block and shelters
Royal British Legion	£25.00	Donation towards Remembrance Day Wreath
Stoke Fleming Youth Club	£15.00	Donation for use of Youth Club for 6 <sup>th</sup> February Open Day

#### 844. DIARY DATES

- a) Thursday 25 February - South Devon & Dartmoor CDRP Community Safety Forum Event at The Watermark, Ivybridge at 12.30pm - 4pm. No attendance planned.
- b) Tuesday 9th March – Coleridge Association of Parish Councils meeting, 7.30pm at Stoke Fleming Village Hall – Cllr Norman agreed to attend this meeting with the Chairman (to be confirmed).
- c) Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 4pm – 7pm, meeting with S Hams & W Devon Police Commander, Inspectors and Neighbourhood Team at Totnes Police Station. Chairman, Vice Chairman & Clerk to attend.
- d) Wednesday 9 June, Slapton Line Advisory Forum at 6.30 pm in Slapton Village Hall.

#### 845. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- a) Mr R Moseley, email request to place a memorial bench in Peg’s Copse – an email reply had been sent and a response is awaited.
- b) SHDC letter confirming Parish allowances for travel & subsistence – not relevant as Councillors do not claim.
- c) Email request to seek local views on Affordable Housing Provision in the South Hams by a Devon resident, currently a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Geography undergraduate at Portsmouth University – agreed, a copy of her report to be requested.
- d) Devon Playing Pitch & Outdoor Courts Study – Cllr Elliott agreed to provide responses, deadline now 3<sup>rd</sup> March.
- e) Request for representative on the Village Hall Committee – Cllr Norman agreed to continue as the Parish Council representative.
- f) Letter of thanks from Mrs Joan Mason for cork covering for notice boards.
- g) New Register of Electors held by the Clerk.

#### 846. CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATING

SHDC Minutes of Executive Meeting 7 Jan and 25 Jan, Senior Council for Devon newsletter January 2010, Tor Homes Open Door newsletter Winter 2009/10, Clerk & Councils Direct Yearbook and January 2010 Newsletter. Devon Playing Fields’ Association Newsletter Winter 2010, SHDC Agenda & Minutes of the Council and its bodies, 4/2/10, Junkmail (Devon Community Recycling & composting news).

#### 847. PLANNING

**APPLICATIONS** - None

#### DECISIONS

**Mr. M Johnson** – 51/5193/09/F - Householder application for demolition of existing lean-to and erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling and single storey to rear. Alterations to rear garden to provide parking. Wayside, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QY - GRANTED

**Mr. & Mrs. P Hodge** – 51/1996/09/F - Retention of polytunnel 4 and provision of potting shed; 51/1997/09/F - Retention of polytunnel 1 plus replacement storage building; 51/1998/09/F - Retention of polytunnels 2 & 3; 51/1999/09/F - Retention of polytunnel 5 and relocation of working tunnel. Bugford Nurseries, Bugford, Dartmouth, TQ6 0LT - GRANTED

**Mr. M Rae** – 51/2004/09/F – Re-submission of householder application 51/1864/09/F for demolition of existing two storey extension and replacement with a two storey extension. Further extension to the side of the property and installation of an air source heat pump. Ashleigh, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QY - GRANTED

**Mr R Perry** - 51/1495/09/CU Re-submission of 51/1943/08/CU for change of use of agricultural building to yard area (B1/B8) for open storage with highway improvements. Great Cotton Farm, Dartmouth, TQ6 0LB - GRANTED

**Mr. J Davenport** – 51/1993/09/F - Provision of gateway to allow access for agricultural machinery. Ash House Farm, Ash, Dartmouth, TQ6 0LR - GRANTED

**Work to Tree Preservation Order Number 1977**, Register number of notice 2966. Sanders, Stoke Fleming - GRANTED

The date for the next monthly meeting is **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010** in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.