

Stokeinteignhead Parish Council

MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2015
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, STOKEINTEIGNHEAD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs Fearn (Chairman), French, Horton, Stoneman, Dagworthy, Spencer-Small, and Toomer
Cllr Clarence (TDC/DCC)

Apologies: Cllr Hancock, PCSO C Rider

Also present: Kim Ford (Locum Clerk), Mrs. Rachel Avery (Clerk), 12 members of the Public

No	Subject	Comments
1a	Opening:	The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.00.
1b	Apologies:	It was RESOLVED to approve the apologies of Cllr. Hancock and PCSO C. Rider.
2	Declaration of Interests:	At the Chairman's request the Clerk read the following exert from Stokeinteignhead Parish Councillors Code of Conduct: Declaration of interests at meetings <i>10. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A the member shall not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter and shall leave the meeting whilst that matter is being dealt with. He/she only has to declare what his/her interest is if it is not already entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.</i> Cllr. Toomer declared his interest in the development of the Village Green at Pools Weir.
Standing orders suspended for the following items:		
3a	Public Question Time	A member of the public asked why the original comments submission form was not used at the Village Green consultation day; created by the Clerk on request of the Parish Council and approved by the Chairman. The Chairman responded that whilst he had approved the original form he felt it was the final decision of Cliff Hancock, as Chairman of the Task Group, to have the final say on the comments form. Mr Hancock had decided the form was inappropriate as it was asking for comments to wards decision which had already been made by the Parish Council. He replaced the original form. The Village Green Task Group were the main organiser of the consultation event.
3b	Police Report	PCSO Colin Rider gave the following report for the period 10.02.15 to 09.03.15: STOKEINTEIGNHEAD POLICE LOGS Concern for the welfare of a resident following contact from an ex-partner. 2 vehicle road traffic collision at Teign Harvey-No injuries. STOKEINTEIGNHEAD CRIMES Driver arrested for testing over the drink drive limit following a collision with a cottage wall. There were no further enquiries for PCSO. C. Rider.
3c	District & County Councillor	Cllr. Clarence reported that a 1.99% rise in council tax was agreed by Devon County Council; the highest increase that could be adopted without the need for a referendum. This would create £3.1M additional revenue for the County Council. Some of which was to be allocated towards community transport to ease the loss of many local bus services across Devon county. The reduction of Stokeinteignhead bus service was discussed with all members commenting the service whilst only used by a few people was a vital link for them. This small amount of people are greatly affected by this change. Cllr. Clarence reported that he has regularly provided financial support to organisations such as Volunteering in Health and he suggested that the organisation may consider including residents of Stokeinteignhead into their routes. Cllr. Spencer- Small reported that a small group of volunteers were already established in the community but this could be aided and encouraged with financial support. Cllr. Dagworthy reminded that a previous scheme to utilise the school minibus was unsuccessful.

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		Cllr. Clarence reported on the Clinical Commissioning Group's proposal for changes to the Minor Injuries Units in Teignmouth and Dawlish			
3d	Neighbourhood Watch Report	Cllr. Toomer reported a joint meeting with Combeinteignhead Neighbourhood Watch for possible collaboration was being arranged; Maidencombe branch have also expressed an interest to join forces. Although not within the same District boundary the parishes share parochial boundaries, the crimes are often similar as spread from one area to the next. The Chairman asked if a collaboration with Shaldon was to be considered. It was agreed by NW members to investigate further. Mr. Stanley reported that information is already shared between the Teignbridge Neighbourhood Watch consortiums.			
The Chairman resumed standing orders for the Parish Council to conduct the following business:					
4	To consider, amend if necessary, and approve publication of the following minutes: • Parish Council meeting held 10 February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was RESOLVED to APPROVE these minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting with no amendments requested by members. Proposed Cllr. Dagworthy, seconded Cllr. Horton. AGREED (7:0). Final version to be posted on Parish Council website/Noticeboards. 			
5	PLANNING – It was PROPOSED and AGREED to send the following comments to TDC:				
5a	Application Ref: 15/00291/FUL Location: Stretton, Stoke Road Proposal: Replacement garage and new studio building	No objection. Proposed Cllr. French, seconded Cllr. Spencer-Small. AGREED (7:0)			
5b	TDC Self-build Housing Register	The Clerk read out correspondence from Teignbridge District Council about joining a register of interested parties and available land for self-build opportunities. This was discussed and agreed that Stokeinteignhead did not have land available for self-build development and did not wish to be included on the register. It was RESOLVED for no further action to be taken.			
6	FINANCE				
6a	To agree accounts for payment:	It was RESOLVED to AGREE and sign the following cheque payments:			
		PAYEE	AMOUNT	CHQ	DESCRIPTION
		K Ford	312.09 38.19	583	Wages (5 hrs OT) Expenses
		R Avery	577.25	584	Maternity leave payment + 1 day work finance (PAYE)
		Stokeinteignhead Community Fund	168.00	585	Defibrillator Project (Elector Funding claimed)
6b	Bank Reconciliation:	Treasurers Account Balance as at 30.01.2015 £11238.72			
		PAYEE	AMOUNT (+/-)	CHQ NO	DESCRPTION
		NS and I account	-37.50	SO	Savings
		Kim Ford	-323.85	581	Wages/Expenses
		Rachel Avery	-577.25	582	Wages/HMRC payment
		Balance as at 16.01.2015 £10300.12			

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7 FLOODING		
7a	Flooding Forum update:	<p>Cllr. French had nothing further to report as the Flood Forum had not met but did read out this month's report from Jessica Bott, DCC Senior Flood Risk Manager. (Available to view as Appendix A).</p> <p>The Clerk read out correspondence from Mr. B. Stanley, requesting that the Parish Councils consider using funding provided by Cllr. Clarence for preventative works between Middle and Lower Gabwell, he added that this was the only area of the village to be flooded this winter. Mr. Stanley was thanked for his suggestion.</p> <p>Both this correspondence and Jessica Botts report were discussed further. It was RESOLVED for the Flood Forum to liaise with the public over possible projects to spend the funding, to collate the responses and make a recommendation to the Parish Council at a future meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed that rather than take on work that it was felt should be carried out by Devon County Council, and the responsibility and liability that comes with carrying out such works, pressure should be put on DCC to complete these tasks themselves. It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to DCC regarding the area highlighted by Mr. Stanley.</p>
7b	Emergency Plan:	A meeting of the Emergency Planning Committee was to be arrange and a report provided at the next Parish Council meeting.
8 VILLAGE GREEN		
8a	VG Task Group Report	<p>Task Group Chairman, Mr. C. Hancock, sent his apologies but provided the following report:</p> <p><i>As everyone is aware, we had an open information event at the village hall on Saturday 21st February where the intention was to show all parishioners what has been proposed about the play equipment for the village green, as there was an indication that not everyone understood what had been proposed.</i></p> <p><i>It was held to allow everyone to have an unbiased view to what is proposed and was well attended with over 35 adults (and children) from different areas and age groups.</i></p> <p><i>We provided a slip to ask the attendees to where and what they thought should be on the green with an opportunity to write additional comments on the sheet.</i></p> <p><i>23 of these comment sheets were in support of the plan and 3 were against it.</i></p> <p><i>I believe that as the parish council have already agreed the proposal and the funding and we have had a few open meetings and forums which only seem to show an outstanding support for the plan, we should now move forward.</i></p> <p><i>The village green task force would now like to move on and try to engage a few more members of the parish and try to get back to what we were formed for, which is a forum that can discuss fundraising, voluntary contributions and some suggestions to the council of how to maintain and improve the green for the whole community.</i></p> <p>This was followed by a report from Cllr. Toomer:</p> <p><i>As would be expected many people have come up with different ideas for the green, including: Improvement of the football pitch, extra sports facilities, addition of arts and sculptures, addition of play equipment for children, addition of play equipment usable by adults, development and care of the wildlife aspects, provision of picnic tables and benches, reduction of the green to allow more car parking, improved accessibility for the less able.</i></p> <p><i>Some of these people have got together to form what are in effect small "campaign groups" to promote their ideas, which is fine. One of these groups particularly wanted play equipment to be sited immediately outside their own homes. They have every right to pursue that. What is not right, however, is that one elected parish councillor joined in and supported that group.</i></p> <p><i>What I also believe is wrong is that collectively the parish council has singled out that campaign group and given it the support and authority to run as a supposedly impartial body representing the needs of the community as a whole.</i></p>

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<p><i>Standing orders suspended</i></p>	<p><i>This group was first called the VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE and then the VILLAGE GREEN TASK GROUP because it breached so many rules and guidelines for committees. It has been ALLOWED and ENCOURAGED by the parish council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to take priority over other individuals in decision making and planning -to positively exclude from their group any individuals whose views differ from their own - to send offensive emails as part of their campaign with no guidance or intervention from the parish council - to hold meetings with the positive exclusion of other members of the public - to use the paid services and support of the clerk who is supposed to be impartial -to become the official contact point for other parishioners and to respond to confidential emails sent by the public to the parish council's central email address - to arrange the spraying of pesticide on the green without the authorisation of the full parish council and without consultation with, and warning to, the immediate neighbours - to make and act on financial decisions without consulting the parish council, for example the selling of the parish council's first lawn mower and adding swings to the initial play scheme plans - to apply for grants on behalf of the whole parish thereby holding exclusive contact rights with the grant providers and having access to confidential information which has been withheld from the public and certain elected councillors, myself included - to act as a contact point with the company lined up to provide the playground equipment and so be party to further exclusive information withheld from other persons - to impede and prevent the carrying out of works requested by others outside their group, e.g. the installation of the replacement football goal post and the cutting through of improved access for the less able in our community. <p><i>The individuals in this group are volunteers, not elected councillors, and are therefore not subject to the confinements of the councillors' code of conduct and its related regulations. They are therefore not accountable as are the parish council. It is this parish council which is answerable, in particular for its failure to plan, arrange and oversee a clear and structured public consultation process BEFORE any grants were even considered, let alone applied for and banked.</i></p> <p><i>In view of the above I make the following statements:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- <i>I dissociate myself from the grant applications made to Viridor and Awards for All. I was not made aware of their content prior to their submission and took no part in their formulation.</i> 2- <i>The details of the applications were kept from me and the public until I obtained them through The Freedom of Information Act 2000.</i> 3- <i>The named applicants who are contact points for the applications are both unelected members of the public, not parish councillors.</i> 4- <i>The statements made in the applications contain many inaccuracies which I believe should have been corrected by the parish councillors prior to submission. I have informed the grant authorities of these inaccuracies as I believe that to proceed without doing so may be considered to be fraudulent.</i> 5- <i>I do not intend to detail all the inaccuracies at this point as I believe that it would be disrespectful to the members of public who have voluntarily put in their time and effort. I do however expect the parish council to recognise its position of responsibility and potential culpability for these matters and so return the grant funds, this having already been stated as an option by the chairman.</i> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council be given time to respond to Cllr.Toomer's report but that the Chairman via the Clerk would respond in due course.</p> <p>A discussion continued, allowing members of the public to comment. It was felt that the Parish Council had acted 'secretively' regarding the proposals but following this further consultation a better understanding had been achieved. The public said they had not been listened to in the past but now felt that they had. Concerns were still apparent;</p>
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	Rats at Pools Weir car park	<p>regarding parking and the proposed swings, both of which can be reviewed and discussed further at a later stage.</p> <p>The Chairman summed up stating that there appeared to be a choice to be made tonight by the Parish Council from 3 options:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept funding and proceed with the project, but to include minor amendments such as reconsider the swing. 2. Postpone the acceptance of funding, if this is possible, for the project to be resurrected following election in May and possibly a new Parish Council. 3. Reject funding. Put a stop on the project. <p>These options were discussed further. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Dagworthy to follow option 1. Accept funding and proceed with the project, but to include minor amendments such as reconsider the swing. Seconded by Cllr. French. (7:0) CARRIED.</p> <p>Following advice of the Clerk the disbanding of the Village Green Task Group was proposed by Cllr. French, seconded by Cllr. Horton. (7:0) CARRIED. The Clerk to write to members advising of this and thank them for their enthusiasm and efforts during their involvement with the group.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if there was any development in dealing with the rodents in Pools Weir car park. Cllr. Toomer had been in contact with Environmental services at Teignbridge District Council and provided advice. The Clerk was instructed to follow up on this.</p>
<i>The Chairman resumed standing orders for the Parish Council to conduct the following business:</i>		
9	Highways & Hedges	<p>Cllr. Horton advised that the Chestnut tree in Gabwell area was looking vulnerable and in need of attention before possible damage caused. Mr. Stanley advised that one branch had already fallen, he was thanked with dealing with this. It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to the land owner; name and address to be provided by Cllr. Horton.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the brown tourist signs had been replaced but one has not been amended to feature the original icons, it was therefore incorrect in accordance with DCC Highways. It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to write to the Community Shop Committee to advise that the matter needs addressing by either correcting the sign or contacting DCC themselves. Cllr. Clarence requested a copy of this correspondence.</p>
10	Village Hall Report	<p>Cllr. Spencer-small reported that a recent dinner with guest speakers was poorly attended despite good advertising. Such events to try to raise funding for the lighting would continue soon, including a French evening, Italian evening, and family picnic; however it had been agreed that no more fairs would be hosted at the Village Hall.</p> <p>At the AGM in January a small profit was reported but there was a shortage of officers.</p>
11	Twinners' Report	<p>Cllr. Toomer reported a quiz on Friday 20th March which incorporated other local twinning associations.</p> <p>TA meetings would continue to be held in the Church House Inn upstairs meeting room. A coffee morning is to be held at Higher Farm on Saturday 20th April inviting non-members wanting to know more about TA.</p> <p>25 visitors from Trevieres confirmed, arriving on 30.04.15 and leaving again on 03.05.15. Planning of their visit was underway and should include a trip to the Tiverton Canal. A presentation and exchange of gifts will take place in the Church House Inn, all members of the public are welcomed.</p> <p>The next meeting is Monday 13th April, 7.30pm at the Church House Inn.</p>
12	Facebook	<p>It was reported that Clerks are being encouraged to create a presence for Parish Councils using social media such as Facebook and Twitter. She is to attend to a course and that Mrs. Rachel Avery could also attend. The benefits of the Parish Council starting a Facebook page was discussed. All Councillors were in favour of this development.</p>
13	Public Question Time: 10 mins	Nothing further

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13	Clerks Report	The Clerk reported that nomination pack were now available to current Councillors wishing to stand again for 2015 Local Government Election and that further queries regarding this process could be answered by herself or by contacting Cathy Ruelens, the Deputy Returning Officer, Governance & Communications, Teignbridge District Council on Tel: 01626 215103 or E-mail: cathy.ruelens@teignbridge.gcsx.gov.uk
14	Correspondence received:	<p>It was RESOLVED for the following correspondence to be NOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails regarding Village Green development opposition from Ms. J. Connele, dated 2nd March and 9th March, as previously distributed to Councillors. • Emails also regarding Village Green concerns from Ms. S. Hodge and Ms. T. Millward, both dated 8th March and Ms. H. Benn, dated 22nd February. All sent to Councillors. • Letter from Mr. B. Stanley regarding flooding alleviation proposal for Gabwell, as discussed during Flooding.
15	To note the next meeting: Tuesday 14th APRIL 2015	This was NOTED

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm having thanked Mrs. Kim Ford for carrying out duties as Locum Clerk during the maternity leave of Mrs. Rachel Avery who shall return to her post on Monday 23rd March 2015.