

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOKEINTEIGNHEAD PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018 - STOKEINTEIGNHEAD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

Present: Cllrs French (Chair), Dagworthy, Horton, Stanley, Stoneman and Simmons

Apologies: Cllrs Setter and Small

Also present: Rachel Avery (Clerk)
 11 members of the Public
 County Cllr Dewhirst and District Cllr Clarence (19.56)
 Archdeacon of Totnes Douglas Dettmer and Reverend Annie Church, Dr Rodney Horder and Gill Drake
 Sgt Jonathan Ross

No	Subject	Comments
1	The Chairman will open the Meeting and receive apologies.	Cllr French opened the meeting at 19.30. It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the apologies of Cllrs Setter and Small. A moment of silence was held for Mr Geoff Setter, who had sadly passed away. Thoughts were extended to Cllr Setter and her family. Cllr Dagworthy reminded those present that Mr Setter had been instrumental in creating a new Village Hall and his work would always be remembered.
2	To declare any interests arising at this meeting.	Cllr Horton declared an interest in planning applications 18/00048/NPA and 18/00277/FUL. Cllr Stoneman declared an interest in planning application 18/00048/NPA.
<i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i>		
3	<p><u>Public Question Time:</u> A period of 5 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Stokeinteignhead.</p> <p><u>Closure of St Andrews Churchyard – Archdeacon of Totnes and Reverend Annie Church</u></p>	<p>Concerns were raised regarding water in the road at Higher Rocombe, which is coming up from the drain; it appears that there is a blockage between the two road gratings. There are two vulnerable properties, and this has been reported to DCC. Cllr Dewhirst explained that the whole stretch has been added to his Pothole Action Fund this year and work should be completed by the summer.</p> <p>There are new potholes in Deane Road and the blocked drain is causing a problem; these issues have been reported to DCC, along with photos. Cllr French welcomed the Archdeacon of Totnes and Revd. Church to the meeting and thanked them both for their attendance. She stated that the Parish Council is starting a consultation and welcomes the opportunity to discuss this issue. Rodney Horder explained that as part of this meeting, he hoped to discuss the formation of a working group. The Archdeacon explained that he was delighted to be in attendance and has lots to do with church buildings and churchyards. His role would be to respond to questions.</p> <p>Rodney Horder outlined the issue. The planned closure seems the most appropriate situation. With a small congregation and dwindling church members, this would spread the financial responsibility to the community. The PCC is not the burial authority and when the churchyard becomes full, it passes the responsibility on to the Local Authority.</p> <p>It was NOTED that most villages go down the route of the Parish Council taking over and maintenance being funded through the precept. It was NOTED that there are two to four spaces left for burials, and it would be built into the closure order that they can be filled. Cremated remains can still be interred in the churchyard, as can burials in family graves provided there is sufficient space.</p> <p>Consultation with regards to how to move forwards has been</p>

CHAIR:..... DATE:.....

	<p>undertaken. Two Q and A sessions had been held, with two people attending in the afternoon and one in the evening. Prior to this, a summary in the parish magazine had been created and there will be follow up items in the next edition.</p> <p>It was NOTED that the PCC has not yet started the application process but wishes to work together to move forwards.</p> <p>Cllr French reported that the plans had come as a shock. She suggested that the PCC should have spoken to the Parish Council first rather than hearing about it and feeling it was a fait accompli. She does understand the situation, but the Parish Council is willing to purchase ground adjacent to the churchyard and increase the grant given to the PCC but that the control and administration stays with them.</p> <p>The Archdeacon explained that when a churchyard is closed, it remains consecrated and in the ownership of the incumbent. The PCC remains responsible for day-to-day oversight, but the Parish or District Council takes on the maintenance of ground and walls.</p> <p>Cllr Dagworthy stated that he felt that the churchyard should be under the jurisdiction of the church, and this was generally agreed by the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was NOTED that the PCC has been advised in these circumstances to close the churchyard. In an ideal world, there would be one consecrated church-run churchyard. The PCC is a charity and bound by charity law and must act in the church's best financial interests. The Parish Council cannot bind its successors, and therefore can't promise that its successors will continue to pass a rate for the administration of the burial ground. The core PCC must be made up of the mission of the Church and it spends considerable time and effort maintaining the most significant building in the village. Increasingly, there is no pot of money to help Stokeinteignhead maintain its church building, and lots of hard work goes into fundraising and applications for grants to ensure cash flow. If the churchyard is closed, a significant extra revenue stream will be available. The District Council is obliged to maintain the grounds of a closed churchyard. Some communities like having a second burial ground that is not in the churchyard, which may not have such strict rules and regulations.</p> <p>Revd Church pointed out that the church pays around £48000 per year to the Diocese.</p> <p>It was NOTED that everyone wants the churchyard to be kept in good condition, but there are concerns that TDC's maintenance may not be enough; the churchyard should be an asset to the village.</p> <p>The Archdeacon asked if the Parish Council could mix the two. TDC won't volunteers to undertake maintenance but will do so if required. There is nothing to stop the Parish Council from undertaking further maintenance or giving money to the District Council to maintain the area to a higher standard. There could be an arrangement whereby the Parish Council ask the PCC to take on some administrative role for a new cemetery, with a faculty for a gate between both the closed churchyard and the new burial ground. It was NOTED that this is exactly what the Parish Council is trying to achieve.</p> <p>Cllr Horton suggested that all options should be considered carefully. Fred Cornes stated that the fundamental point is that the PCC doesn't want to take on a new burial ground due to cost. The Diocesan Registrar states that it is a matter for the PCC to decide what to do with its churchyard; reuse, close or extend if land is available. If this is the case, and the Parish Council are offering land and money, then why wont the PCC take the land? If the church hands over maintenance, it will have no</p>
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<p><u>County and District Councillors' Reports</u></p> <p><u>Police Report</u></p>	<p>control over what happens to the churchyard when it is passed on to District Council. He understands the workload as he had been a churchwarden for fifteen years. The Church will lose control and there will be a situation where there are lots of separate contractors. The single point of contact and responsibility should lie with the PCC. He believes that the church should retain control, but the village should fund it.</p> <p>The Archdeacon suggested that he appeared to have been a churchwarden who had put an enormous amount of time and effort into the churchyard. One cannot guarantee that that time and commitment from someone else will be available. Control is important, the old churchyard remains consecrated. The PCC remains the occupier and the incumbent remains owner. Nothing can be changed without a faculty, and the PCC is the body undertaking any day-to-day maintenance. His experience is that PCCs do not lose control because they are on the ground doing everything.</p> <p>As a PCC, Rodney Horder reported that they are working on getting three tombs repaired. This will cost £11000, and they are raising funds and applying for grants.</p> <p>It was asked if a new burial ground would be consecrated. It was NOTED that if the Parish Council opened a burial ground, it would not be legally consecrated. Consecrated means requires faculty. If a priest is undertaking the service, the grave would be blessed.</p> <p>Fred Cornes reported that the committee will be made up of two PCC members and two Councillors, but he asks that two other people be appointed too, and he would like to be part of it as an ex churchwarden. Matthew Fearn expressed concern over the consultation, which had been poorly advertised and suggested that the exercise could be done again.</p> <p>Revd Church apologised for the way that the Parish Council found out about this. The closure had to be discussed at PCC level, and they were following advice and entering consultation. She apologised that someone had spoken before the PCC had got to Parish Council, and it had always been the PCC's intention that the two bodies would get together.</p> <p>Cllr French thanked the Archdeacon and Revd Church again for attending the meeting. The Archdeacon explained that the village was all on same side and he congratulated the village on such a well-attended meeting!</p> <p>County Cllr Dewhirsts' report forms part of the minutes. He thanked those who had attended the recent litter pick.</p> <p>District Cllr Clarence reported that Teignbridge adopted its local plan in 2014. It is now up for a five-year review, with a consultation period in May 2019. A draft settlement boundary review had been circulated. Between 08/03/18 and 08/04/18 there have been 3 recorded crimes in the Stokeinteignhead area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/ Letter sent conveying threat (this being a domestic related incident stemming from one partner seeking to return to a relationship, then after rebuttals deteriorated into making threats) 2/ Domestic related historic report of assault amounting to actual bodily harm 3/ Failure to stop and failure to report Road Traffic Collision (RTC) occurring during the period of heavy snow when an abandoned vehicle was struck and extensively damaged. <p>Shaldon crimes: rape and assault (historic, same case), criminal damage</p>
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	<u>Neighbourhood Watch Report</u>	to window, drink driving, care home neglect, car travelling along Teignmouth Road hit by a gold ball at Shaldon golf course. Cllr Stoneman raised the issue of green laning, and the use of number plates not pertaining to the correct vehicle. Sergeant Ross stated this was not a criminal matter. The Neighbourhood Watch report forms part of the minutes.
	<i>The Council will convene to conduct the following business:</i>	
4	Approval to consider, amend as agreed by the Council and approve the minutes of the following minutes: 13 March 2018	It was RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes.
5	To consider the following planning applications: 18/00048/NPA Application for Prior Approval under Part 3 Class Q (a) and (b) and paragraph W of the GDPO change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling (The Barns, Higher Rocombe) 18/00277/FUL Replacement garage (Manderley, Gabwell Lane)	<i>It was NOTED that this application had been submitted by Cllr Stoneman. He remained in the room to answer any questions but did not partake in the decision making. Cllr Horton remained in the room but did not partake in the decision making.</i> Concerns were NOTED from a resident regarding the privacy of neighbouring properties and maps used for the planning application which suggest that neighbouring land and gardens are being used. Cllr Dagworthy PROPOSED NO OBJECTION, subject to the issue of plans showing the use of neighbours' gardens is dealt with and that existing boundaries and gardens remain the same. It is also asked that the privacy of neighbouring properties be maintained. This was SECONDED by Cllr Simmonds and APPROVED (4:0:1) <i>Cllr Horton remained in the room but did not partake in the decision making.</i> Cllr Dagworthy PROPOSED no objection. This was SECONDED by Cllr Stanley and APPROVED (5:0:1)
6	Flooding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC update 	Cllr Dagworthy reported that DCC have completed their surveys and results should be available for the next meeting. Cllr Horton reported that Charles Horton would undertake the maintenance of the silt trap and the clerk would send the appropriate paperwork to him for signing.
7	Finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree accounts for payment Rural Aid grant application – bin installation 	It was RESOLVED to APPROVE accounts for payment. It was NOTED that the clerk had spoken to TDC about a rural aid application for a bin, but they had agreed to install one for a trial period. It was requested that the bin be put in a more prominent position and be installed more safely. Action: Clerk to contact TDC.
8	Village Hall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 	There was no Village Hall report.
9	Shop Report.	Matthew Fearn reported that people were trapped again with a second snow event. During March, the shop was able to act for the community. They stayed open and had volunteers to get milk and bread from other sources when supplies ran out. Thanks were extended to Karl Pedersen and Kevin Bowden. The finances and takings through to March are a marked improvement on the same period last year. A new Epos system has been installed and whilst there have been some training issues, the investment will be hugely beneficial. The Post Office application is still ongoing, and the shop lease is currently being looked at as part of it. The recent survey has led to 96 replies. The next stage is for them to be analysed and considered.

10	Twinnings' report.	<p>Cllr Simmonds reported that the quiz had been a great success and thanked everyone who attended for their support. The memorial cup had been won by Abbotskerswell Twinnings' team. This event will take place at the same time next year, with the addition of hot food.</p> <p>The visit to Treveries at the end of the month is organised and next years' plans with the village hosting will start.</p> <p>New members are always welcome.</p> <p>The Twinnings' will have a table at the Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p>Future events include Petanque in the summer, a coffee morning, a safari supper, a treasure hunt and a French supper at the Church House Inn.</p>
11	General Data Protection Regulations.	
12	Highways and Hedges.	<p>Potholes on Deane Road, Long Lane and Ivy Tree Hill had all been reported.</p> <p>It was NOTED that the salt spreader would be an agenda item for May.</p>
13	Possible closure of the Churchyard.	<p>It was RESOLVED that a working group be formed, as suggested in public question time. It was AGREED that the committee would be made up of three Parish Councillors, two PCC representatives and two parishioners.</p> <p>The Parish Council representatives would be Cllrs Dagworthy, Horton and Stanley.</p> <p>It was NOTED that Fred Cornes had asked to sit on the working group and Heather Smith was also asked to join. It was RESOLVED that they would be the two parishioners to sit on the group.</p> <p>It was NOTED that the primary purpose of this working group would be to facilitate communication and to answer questions. It was NOTED that it would hold no decision-making powers.</p> <p><i>Standing orders were suspended.</i></p> <p>Matthew Fearn stated that he owns land at the end of the churchyard owned and is willing to be part of any discussions.</p> <p><i>Standing orders were reinstated.</i></p> <p>Cllr French reported that David French has offered a piece of land in principal, but he is currently away. The Parish Council would need to undertake necessary surveys to ascertain whether the land was viable. It was NOTED that a meeting of the working part would take place.</p>
14	Clerks Report.	<p>It was NOTED that the clerk had passed the first section of her Cilca course.</p> <p>IT was NOTED that her 2018/19 holiday entitlement would be discussed at the May meeting.</p>
15	To note any correspondence received.	There was no further correspondence.
16	Emergency Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	<p>TDC have delivered the requested sand bags. It was NOTED that Cllr Stoneman would take 30 to Rocombe.</p> <p>Cllr Stanley reported that more equipment had been purchased.</p> <p>Volunteers have suggested a walk about, so that if they are transferred during an event, they are aware of what measures to take.</p>
17	Public Question Time: 10 minutes	<p>Fred Cornes reported that the rain gauges in John French's field may be at risk due to the protection having been destroyed. Action: Cllr Stanley to report.</p> <p>It was NOTED that SPLAT may like to attend the APM. They would like to be more involved in the community and will be holding a Summer Fete.</p> <p>Heather Smith asked if the Parish Council would be commemorating the 100th anniversary of WW1. It was NOTED that there had been no discussion yet. She reported that she had started scattering poppy seeds, which the Parish Council had no objection to. It was AGREED that</p>

		troughs of poppies around the war memorial would be fitting. Action: Cllr French to buy troughs. Agenda item for May. It was requested that the clerk chase TDC regarding the enforcement issues from last month. Action: Clerk to contact TDC.
18	To note the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 08 May 2018.	This was NOTED. It was NOTED that the AGM would precede the main meeting at 19.00. The meeting was closed at 21.07. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Saturday 21 April, 15.00-17.00.

CHAIR:..... DATE:.....