

# **Staverton Parish Council Meeting**

## **Wednesday 4 September 2019 at the Victory Hall, Landscope at 7.10pm**

### **Public Forum**

Cllr Catherall (Chair) invited comments from members of the public. Anthony Magnall, the Parliamentary Conservative Candidate for Totnes introduced himself to the Parish Council and Parishioners present. An allotment holder indicated an issue with the gate at the Allotments and advised that there had been an incidence of theft of produce. A parishioner queried the length of time being taken over the new affordable housing project in Landscope. Delays are as a result of the project still being under the planning process.

Mike Wright addressed the PC and confirmed that the tradition of 'Beating the Bounds' will take place on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September in the Staverton/Dartington area. One or two Cllrs are invited to meet the 'walkers' at Parsnips Cross (grid ref 810-635) and then walk along to Winton House TQ9 6NA to exchange certificates. The offer was also made for people to take part in the whole walk and learn about the local history. The full 8 mile walk will commence at Lillisford Farm (grid ref 819-649) at 9.30 am. Dogs on leads welcome. Anyone wishing to take part should advise the Clerk.

Cllr Catherall then welcomed Ian Bright of TRESOC who outlined why there has been a delay with the Hydro Project being able to secure planning permission. The Environment Agency have requested further reports. A structural report on Staverton Weir has revealed concerns that the concrete structure could fail in the event of severe flooding. TRESOC would have a budget for repairs and might be able to secure a structural grant. The Dartington Hall Estate would buy the electricity generated and TRESOC are looking for local ownership of the Project via a profit share ownership scheme. The floor was opened up and concern regarding fish was expressed by one of the Councillors. Cllr Catherall thanked Ian Bright for his update and indicated that the Parish Council were comfortable that the Environment Agency were involved, as they will adjudicate on the effects on the fish. Ian Bright then left the meeting.

Toby Russell, Community Landing Sites Development Officer, Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) then spoke about the Night Landing Site proposed for Staverton Playing Fields. It would entail one single 10 metre lighting column, positioned at the south east corner of the Pavilion, with 2 x 100w led lights on top, pointing away from the houses. The lights would be switched on remotely as and when required for an emergency landing; with a manual check by the community once a month. The lighting column would be a community asset and the Parish Council would be responsible for maintenance and for covering the minimal electricity cost. A quote for the installation works was presented. DAA can cover the cost of the labour to install, the Parish would need to fund the remainder. Alternative contractors can be sought, however MAT Electrics must do the purchasing of the control system, as this must be standard. An additional site in Landscope was proposed, so that the full Parish might be covered more effectively.

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllrs Catherall (Chair), Warren, Watson, Bloomer, Scofield, Talbot, Flaherty, Thorogood and Nixon, Karen Smith (Clerk), District & County Cllr Hodgson and 9 members of the public.

**04.09.01**        **Apologies for absence.** None

**04.09.02**        **To note declarations of interest and dispensations in items on the Agenda.** Cllr Scofield declared an interest in the Staverton Hydro agenda item as Chair of the Dart Angling Association.

**04.09.03**        **The minutes of the Full Council Meeting and Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 July 2019, and the Extraordinary Planning Committee Meeting held on 31 July, were confirmed as a true record.**

**04.09.04**        **District & County Councillor Report**

Cllr Hodgson summarised key matters in her report as follows:

- 1) South Hams DC declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in July.
- 2) The Joint Local Plan – Special Planning Document (SPD) will go out for public consultation in November.

- 3) Our request for Yellow Lines at Staverton Bridge have been approved to go out for public consultation. Providing there are no objections, these works should be completed by next March.
- 4) In respect of Planning Enforcement Cases – Cllrs were asked to forward Cllr Hodgson any comments/concerns for her to take forward
- 5) There is a current Public Consultation on the Devon & Somerset Fire Service, which affects Totnes, where the plan is to reduce fire engines from two to one.
- 6) A lot of climate change activity is moving forward in Totnes and Cllr Hodgson circulated an updated version of the Totnes TC Climate Emergency Draft Action Plan (v6) which might assist our local Climate Change working group.

Copies of Cllr Hodgson's full detailed report and the Climate Emergency Draft Action Plan (V6) are available from the Clerk on request.

#### **04.09.05 Court Room and Playing Fields**

- a) The Court Room & Playing Fields Committee presented their report for July. A request for hedge-cutting along the roadside adjacent to the playing fields has been received. This hedge was previously cut by a contractor who has now passed away. Cllr Watson offered to get the hedge trimmed on this occasion. Cllr Warren indicated she may have a contact for the future.
- b) Fundraising options for the Night Landing Site lighting installation in Staverton were discussed. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Nixon will investigate Crowdfunding; Cllrs Catherall/Warren to approach Anran regarding some fundraising for this via their events.
- c) The proposal to plant more trees was **DEFERRED** until next month, as a report is awaited from the Staverton Wildlife & Conservation Society.

#### **04.09.06 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Catherall gave a verbal report. The Head of Development Planning at SHDC has indicated that the Neighbourhood Plan needs to display further evidence regarding housing need. A Questionnaire will be coming out to households again to provide the NP with more detailed results to support the plan. For the time being, the planned presentation regarding Site Allocations has been postponed.

#### **04.09.07 Highways**

No update on the Lengthsman was available. However Cllr Flaherty has agreed to take responsibility for Highways and Lengthsman Co-ordination from Cllr Catherall and both intend to meet up with Jake Richards in September. Cllr Thorogood will hand over the Parish Buddle Map to Cllr Flaherty. Cllr Hodgson also advised that there is local drainage information online.

#### **04.09.08 Finance**

- a) The Financial Report for July was received and **NOTED**.
- b) The payment schedule was **APPROVED**. Cheques are again being utilised this month.
- c) It was **NOTED** that Cllr Talbot is now an Authorised Signatory, but is still awaiting confirmation of online access to approve BACS.
- d) The draft Risk Assessment Statement presented was **ADOPTED**. It will be reviewed in line with the rest of the policies/documents.
- e) It was **NOTED** that Alison Marshall, Internal Auditor, has given notice and **AGREED** that the Clerk will approach locum clerks recommended by DALC for their experience, fees & availability and will report back in October.

#### **04.09.09 Allotments**

The Allotment Report was received and **NOTED**. Cllr Warren will get the gate fixed and look at the Noticeboard post; and also approach Andy Hayllor regarding the hedge. It was mentioned that the grass on the allotment drive appears longer than the paths. The clerk will query with Simon Birbeck.

#### **04.09.10 Woolston Green and Staverton Playgrounds**

The report on Landscope Playground was **NOTED**. Some remedial work is required with the rocker. The written report on Staverton Playground was provided after the meeting, however Cllr Watson raised the need for fencing repair work and Council **AUTHORISED** up to £200 worth of work, as necessary.

#### **04.09.11 Parish Paths**

The cutting has all been done.

#### **04.09.12 Funding for Feasibility Study for new Facility on Staverton Playing Field**

The Feasibility Study has been delayed until October.

#### **04.09.13 Riverford Community Engagement**

Cllr Catherall confirmed that he will be attending a meeting with Rob Haward, MD of Riverford on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September and thanked Cllrs for contributing ideas/suggestions, which he will take forward into the meeting.

#### **04.09.14 Staverton Public Toilets**

Cllr Warren is hoping to have a meeting with Church representatives before the end of September. Cllr Hodgson offered to speak to Cathy Aubertin to gain some clarity on deadlines.

#### **04.09.15 Riverbank**

- a) It was **NOTED** that our bid for Calor Gas grant funding was unsuccessful.
- b) Ideas for fundraising were suggested and included approaching the Nature Reserve; the Anglers; the Rotarians (who run the Annual Raft Race); the canoeists – although the issue of lack of parking for canoeists was reiterated. The Clerk will circulate to Council funding information from the Rural Funding Network.
- c) Cllr Thorogood will chase Gary Pilbeam for his detailed quote against specification for the remedial works required to strengthen the riverbank.
- d) Cllr Thorogood clarified that the blocked culvert under the railway was not a Parish Council matter. He has been assisting an elderly Parishioner and the matter can be left with him. It was also **NOTED** that there are no blocked gulleys on the highway in this location.
- e) It was **AGREED** that Parishioners can pull up Himalayan Balsam in the Spring.

#### **04.09.16 Staverton Hydro Scheme**

- a) If the Scheme goes ahead, it was felt that any community benefit was unlikely. The need for repairs to the Weir were acknowledged, but concerns were raised as to whether the flow rate would be sufficient to make the project successful.
- b) People can put their name forward if interested in joining the SHCBS Board, however it was **AGREED** that until the Project receives the go-ahead from the Environment Agency, it was not regarded as necessary to have a Parish Rep on the Board.

#### **04.09.17 Climate Emergency**

- a) The working group has 13 members and will meet for the first time on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. Cllr Warren advised that she is happy to co-ordinate/chair the group, but that she needs support and will liaise with Cllr Talbot.
- b) The availability of lottery funding for Climate Action from this autumn was **NOTED**.

#### **04.09.18 Trees**

- a) It was **AGREED** not to sign up to the Tree Charter. More trees in the Parish will be explored under the remit of the Climate Change working group.

- b) It was **AGREED** not to cascade the Ash Dieback information received from DCC, as it was felt this information was already in the public domain. The Parish is already active in burning diseased ash where necessary.
- c) It was **AGREED** that Cllr Thorogood would liaise with Roland Wilkinson, who offered the whips and Mike Alexander kindly offered to assist in the planting.

#### **04.09.19 Beating the Bounds**

Cllrs are to email the Clerk if they wish to take part in this traditional event. The Clerk is required to advise the organisers of names by 12<sup>th</sup> September. Cllrs Catherall/Warren to produce a certificate for exchange from the Staverton side – a digital copy of the Tapestry in the Court Room was suggested.

#### **04.09.20 Parish Council Administration**

- a) All were happy with the current roles they are undertaking. Cllr Flaherty will consider other roles later on, once used to dealing with Highways etc.
- b) The Clerk will attend the Standards & Governance Training Session arranged for Thursday 3/10/19 at SHDC.

#### **04.09.21 Policies & Documents**

Cllr Bloomer updated that she has made a start with the Meetings Section of the Standing Orders and will discuss with Cllr Scofield.

#### **04.09.22 Correspondence**

A Parishioner raised the current state of Moothill Cross and also questioned if the Parish Council were aware of any stone crosses in the area. Cllr Flaherty has since tidied the area and does not believe that there is any evidence of a moot or cross at the site. The Clerk will respond to the Parishioner.

A report has been received of a theft of any honesty box. The Facebook Page and Parish Email have already been used to raise awareness.

Parishioner complaints were received over the summer about the use of diesels on the steam railway. The Clerk will write to SDR to ask them to communicate plans for diesel usage or 24hr timetabling in advance.

The organisers of the Annual Raft Race have sent through a copy of their insurance certificate and asked if they might remove a branch from the weir, permission for which was granted. Their request to remove overhanging branches from the river was however denied, due to existant planning permission only covering branches overhanging the track.

#### **04.09.23 Councillors Reports and Items for Future Agenda**

Cllr Nixon raised the issue of a plastic blockage in the leat near the weir. As the Rotary Club are due to do some works to clear a blockage here, the same will likely be dealt with.

#### **04.09.24 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at the Court Room, Staverton.

#### **Parishioners' Question Time**

- It was raised that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would welcome more support from Parishioners in attending meetings and giving the group some feedback. The NPSG would benefit from some new members who have specifically not provided sites for consideration. Cllr Bloomer will advertise via Website/Facebook/Email.

*The public meeting ended at 9.30pm.*

*Signed:*

*Chair*

*Date*

If you have any queries about these minutes or would like more information, please contact the Parish Clerk:  
Karen Smith on [clerk.stavertonpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.stavertonpc@gmail.com)