

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 7.30pm.

In attendance: 8 Parish Councillors, Cllr J. Brazil, Cllr R. Foss, 38 members of the public.

Apologies for absence – Mr J. McPetrie

1. Welcome – Chair.

2. Police report – No report.

3. County and District Councillor reports:

- **District report - Richard Foss:**

- A379 road update – A 'Coastal Community Fund' is available from the Government to relocate the Monument from the beach car park and tidy the area around the tank at Torcross. A location on the bank at the top of Sands Road is being surveyed with engineers as a suitable site for the monument.
- SHDC Council tax increases of 2.99% and £5 increase on Band D rate. Slapton has one of the lowest precepts in the county.
- Government grants have ended with an additional ½ million of planned cuts in 2019-20. Front line services are preserved (Adult social care and education), but public conveniences and car parks are being reviewed. The beach toilets have been closed due to a damaged septic tank causing pollution and Strete toilets currently remain free of charge.
- SHDC are now building social housing primarily for occupation by younger families. The cost of land and building works is the biggest challenge in providing affordable homes.
- Waste collection services will be standardised across Devon County by 2020 with glass collection from the doorstep as part of the changes. SHDC currently recycle 56% of waste.

County Report Cllr J. Brazil:

- 3.99% increase in the precept (2.99% allowable amount, 1% ring fenced for adult social care). Education is also a priority service but suffering from cuts in teachers and the curriculum and there is a push for funding.
- Slapton Line Partnership (SLP) – A series of open meetings are planned during summer to discuss the management of the future of the A379 road and engage the communities involved. Thanks was given to parishioners for their patience during the road repair period and to Sarah Wollaston for securing funding from Government for the works.
- Locality Budget – An annual grant is available to support community group activities. Thanks was given for all the support provided by parishioners to help maintain their communities.

There were no further questions for the Councillors.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2018 – Read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Annual Powerpoint report of the Parish Council – Chairman Graham Burton

- An overview of the role, powers and rules that govern a local Parish Council was presented along with the names of the current councillors and introduction to the new clerk.
- Planning: 27 Applications, 3 opposed, 1 pending the results of an appeal, plus 4 tree work applications.

- A379 Road. An image was shown of the road in 1964 v's the collapse in 2018 to highlight the rate of erosion.
- Village leaflet – A new stock has been reprinted. Edits will be made at the next reprint once the new locations of the village shop, monument and bus stop are confirmed.
- Mowing contract – A new local supplier has been appointed on a 1 year trial. The first cut took place 22/3/19 and will continue until the end of the growing season (October).
- Transparency Code – To help improve safety and display of public notices to parishioners, changes to the new locations of the parish notice boards at Chantry Corner and Greenbanks was reported along with increased boarding / display area to the Bus Stop interior.
- **2019-20 parish plans:**
 - o The FSC are providing a new bus shelter on the Slapton line which is currently under construction for a late spring installation.
 - o Roads, drains and buddle holes will be cleaned twice a year at the end of April and November to help manage flooding. Costs will be met from the precept.
 - o Highways are due to repair pot holes around the village and improve the drain at the bottom of Brook Street.
- **Financial report:**
 - o No increase in precept for 2019/20: £9709 / Band D rate £36.15, due to cash at bank.
 - o Precept allocation:
 - £4567 fixed operational costs / £5100 village maintenance eg: mowing/drains.
 - o Bank account: £3K ring fenced cricket club donation for sports grants / £16K for community support.
 - o Estimated cash at bank at year end 2018/19 - £28K.
 - o All requests for funding to the parish clerk

Thanks given to all the Cllrs, Tree Wardens, Richard Foss, Julian Brazil, the clerk and all parish organisations for their support.

6. Community Group Reports

There were 9 reports from the following parish groups: Village Shop Committee, Village Hall Committee, Horticultural Show, SAP's, Slapton Strollers, St James Church, Field Study Centre (FSC), Slapton All Stars and Whist and Euchre.

Village Shop Committee

- The Chair reported that the shop is profitable and thriving due to the support of the volunteers and use by parishioners and the FSC guests.
- Discussions are progressing with the FSC for the shop to remain in the current location at the end of the 2 year lease period, Dec 2019.

Village Hall Committee

- Reported the hall is well utilised by a wide variety of groups and £300 was raised at the Christmas event.
- The outside and windows will be decorated in 2019.
- AGM to be held on 24 April 2019, all are invited.
- There is a vacancy for the role of secretary – applications to Mike Bowles.

Horticultural Show

- 339 entries in the 2018 show and thanks was given to all that helped to support the event.
- 2019 show to be held on 10 August 2019.
- AGM to be held on 24 April 2019 after the Village Hall AGM, all are invited.

SAP's

- Thanks given to who were involved and supported the Pantomime and donations were made to Children in Need.
- AGM to be held on 10 April 2019 commencing with a party. All are invited to join and become members to support the 2019 village evening based on a 'Variety Show' theme.

Slapton Strollers – No report

St James Church

- 6 May 2018 was the 700 anniversary since the dedication of the altar of St James. The Bishop of Plymouth attended to lead a special celebratory service.
- Shortfall in fundraising income reported for annual running costs of over £20K. A new schedule of events are planned for 2019 to help increase income. All are invited to support the programme and church café. Details will be advertised on notice boards, Slapton lines and parish website.
- Training will be provided to anyone interested in bell ringing. Experienced bell ringers are invited to support the existing team. Contact the captain of the bell tower if interested.

Field Study Centre

- Reported the FSC has been open 60 years in spring 2019.
- The CEO retired in March and has been replaced as part of an organisation wide re-structure also involving a new centre manager in Slapton.
- The FSC supported the repair of the A379 through undertaking nature studies and providing consultancy.
- Government cuts in education and curriculum changes are impacting on the number of student guests.
- Volunteer mornings are held Wednesday weekly, an invite was extended to come along.
- Celebrate Start Bay event will be held on 4 August 2019 11am-5pm.

Slapton All Stars

- Reported this is a new sports club to help bring together school age children from the local primary schools and surrounding area. An initial football event was held on the Village playing field to help raise awareness of the facility followed by a successful Hoola-Hoop event at the village hall which was well attended. Further events are planned and will be advertised on the groups Facebook page @slaptonallstars.

Whist and Euchre

- Reported that £2207.89 was raised during the year with donations made on an ongoing monthly basis to a wide variety of charities.

A request was made to all community groups to contact the editors of the Village Voice and Slapton Lines with details of any forthcoming or past events which can be reported in the Kingsbridge Gazette, Parish Website and Slapton Lines to help support attendance.

7. Matters for discussion- Presented by the Chair (Mr Graham Burton)

Single Neighbourhood plan – New homes designated as a primary residence

An overview of the scheme was presented. The parish qualifies to set up a plan given 20% of the village housing stock is registered as either holiday or second homes. The parish can join forces with 3 other local parishes to share resources as developing a plan will involve up-to 2 years work and a statutory vote. A majority show of hands showed a willingness to take this matter forward to the next step being to understand the work involved and present this back to the parish.

Portaloos – Beach car park

The benefits, disadvantages and costs of installing x 5 portaloos at the beach car park during Easter, Whitsuntide and summer holidays was presented. Costs for delivery, hire and servicing during these periods are £10k per annum, a 100% increase in next years precept (£36.15). A show of hands indicated a majority not to support. A request was received and agreed by the Chair to allow parishioners some additional time to consider. Feedback to the clerk by 10 April 2019 latest.

Western Power Priority Customer Services Register

An overview of the service was presented. Registration forms and return envelopes were made available for parishioners wishing to join the register.

Traffic survey results

60% of residential households (114 people) replied to the village traffic survey of which a pre meeting with the SLP excluded ideas that were unlawful or impractical being: Designated resident spaces and permits, formal one-way system, designated delivery times.

Results:

- 93% of respondents were in favour of using the budget to pay for traffic management solutions.
- Of the 60% of respondents in favour of the following; 95% of these supported 'No large vehicle' signs, 70% targeted white hatching, 68% extending the Park and Walk and 63% setting up new village 'Gateways'.
- Of the 40% of respondents who did not like the following:20% of these rejected speed bumps and 16% volunteer speed guns.
- Of the 40%-60% of respondents in favour of the following: 59% of these supported an informal one-way arrangement at Sands Road Corner, 50% alternative route signage at Wollaton Cross and 52% flashing speed signs.

It was reported that the results, data and methodology would be issued to the SLP and Highways for further discussion. We will ask that any plans be brought back to the parish to gain buy in via a formal poll. A show of hands showed a majority agreement this was a sensible way forward.

Further comments from x 2 separate parishioners were made. Firstly that elderly people crossing and school signs be introduced and secondly, measures are considered to monitor the impact of any new scheme and finally, could access to funds to improve the backroads be confirmed and communicated. Cllr Richard Foss confirmed he was in discussions with the relevant bodies on improving the back roads and fund allocations/costs. The Chair agreed to ask the SLP to include the road options in the summer road shows as part of their consultation with the parish.

8. Open for Parishioners to raise other items

No other matters were raised.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

SIGNED Chairman:

Date: