

FROGMORE AND SHERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17th JULY 2023

IN SHERFORD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM

Present:

Cllr Peter Hadley (Chairman)	PH
Cllr Ben Johnson (Vice Chair)	BJ
Cllr Nigel Smith	NS
Cllr Antony Marshall	AM
Cllr Tamsin Oakly	TO
Cllr Steve Hart	SH
Cllr Ed Fevyer	EF
District Cllr Laurel Lawford.	LL
County Cllr Julian Brazil	JB

Members of the public attending: 2

1. Open Forum

- Elizabeth Marshall announced that regular community ‘pop-up’ coffee mornings had commenced at St. Martin’s Church, open to all parishioners and guests, with proceeds going to ‘The Friends of St Martin’s Church’ an established local group which helps maintain the 13th Century church building and grounds. In good weather the opportunity would be taken to extend the event into the grounds and the newly landscaped war memorial garden. She advised that she had submitted a Parish Council Community Fund application for bench seating at the memorial. After discussion, councillors voiced support for this proposal, noting that the war memorial was in Parish Council ownership and that the provision of public seating was within their remit and not subject to a community grant application. Elizabeth Marshall was invited to provide further details for the proposed seating within a £500 budget.
- Elizabeth Marshall also raised concerns over the overgrown state of ‘Frogmore and Sherford Footpath No.1’ connecting Sherford to Stancombe. It was noted that, as a designated public footpath, Devon Highway’s Right of Way Warden was responsible for management. The Parish Council undertook to refer the matter for maintenance attention accordingly. It was noted, however, that the entrance to ‘Frogmore Footpath 56’ (access to the Frogmore Creek path) was in a similar category but in the absence of Devon Highway attention it was now included within the Parish Council’s grass cutting works tender.
- Nick White reported that Frogmore’s Mill Lane brook continued to flow without further evidence of pollution. It was agreed, however, that action was now required to rectify the constant spring /ground water flow over the Pool Hill carriageway. The east side drainage channel / culvert was blocked due to road resurfacing and earth and vegetation build-up. Devon Highways are to be requested to reopen the channel and the under-carriageway drain feed into the head of the creek.

2. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Vanessa Apicella, Parish Clerk, due to ill health.

3. To receive declarations of interest from councillors.

None received.

4. To receive and approve minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2023.

The Minutes of the 19th June meeting were received and approved by all present and duly signed as a true and correct record.

5. Matters arising

Item 5. Meeting with St. Martin's Church churchwarden - report awaited (EF).

6. Frogmore Ward Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Parish Council's constitution provides for three Sherford Ward Councillors and up to five Frogmore Ward Councillors. Following the May 2023 local elections, a vacancy exists for an additional Frogmore Ward Councillor. Representation of the People legislation entitles the presently elected Councillors to co-opt a further person to fill the vacancy. Although not obligated, it was agreed that the opportunity should be advertised within the parish.

It was resolved to advertise the Ward Councillor post with immediate effect with a view to submissions, interviews and selection being completed by the time of the next Parish Council meeting on 18th September 2023.

7. County Councillor: Cllr Julian Brazil

- JB reported that DCC continues to face budget challenges. Despite remaining in the black for 2022/23. The cumulative adult care and school grant budget, including special needs is facing a 2024 'off balance sheet' overspend in the order of £150 m. HM Treasury has in place a peer review and 'safely valve' support until 2026.
- JB concurred with Parish Councillors that the present SHDC Slapton Line stakeholder impact assessment should be broadened, at least to include Kingsbridge and Dartmouth.

8. District Councillor: Cllr Laurel Lawford

- LL reported work on the South Hams District Council Electric Vehicle Strategy 2023 – 2025. The Council has already committed to reduce its organisational carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030 and with Devon Climate Emergency Response Group partners, to reduce South Hams' district carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050 at the latest. The Council is also aiming for a 10% biodiversity net gain in the habitat value of its green and wooded public open space by 2025.
- Car-oriented rural transport and infrastructure impacts on pedestrian and cycling safety. Better footpath links, coupled with better public transport will help the decarbonising challenge. The report also targets a move to electrically propelled watercraft, including tugs, ferries and leisure craft.

9. Finance report

The Parish Council bank balances totalled £8,736.51, following recent expenditure, including settlement of the Sherford War Memorial landscape upgrade account and the purchase of a computer for the Parish Clerk's use. It was noted that the second £4,500 2023 Precept tranche was due to be received in September.

It was noted that the Clerk's update on the 2022/23 audit status is awaited. 2023 VAT recovery was also outstanding. The need for additional book-keeping support is to be further investigated.

10. Planning Applications

Part A: Planning Applications – decisions noted.

Planning Appeal Decision Ref: APP/K1128/W/22/3303162 re: refusal of application: 4751/21/FUL. Appellants: Mr & Mrs Causer. Address: Homefield Farm Sherford TQ7 2AT.

Change of use of commercial buildings and dwelling house to 3 no. holiday lets. Demolition of existing retail unit. Replacement of commercial building with 1 no. self-build dwelling house. Associated works include comprehensive landscape and ecology enhancement.

HM Planning Inspectorate allowed the appeal and granted planning permission on 30th June 2023.

Part B: Planning Applications – to be determined

Planning Application ref: 1209/23/VAR, dated 3rd April.

Applicant: Stancombe Properties Ltd.

Application for variations of condition 2 (approved drawings) following listed building consent 0519/21/LBC, The Cider Barn, Stancombe Manor, Sherford TQ7 2BE, concerning an update to the structural requirements to preserve the structure & fabric of the building, omission of a roof light and the introduction of horizontal timber cladding to the single storey store.

Planning application ref: 1443/23/VAR dated 5th May 2023

Listed Building consent for works as stated in 1209/23/VAR (above)

Applicant: Stancombe Properties Ltd.

Application for variations of condition 2 (approved drawings) following listed building consent 0520/21/LBC, The Cider Barn, Stancombe Manor, Sherford TQ7 2BE.

11. Planning Advisory Sub-Group

The 19th June 2023 resolution to reform the Sub-Group was reaffirmed, noting that evidence base reports would be required for the more complex applications.

12. Slapton Line

Consideration was given to the newly published Slapton Line local impact consultation launched by SHDC's consultants, HJA. The impact study area was considered too restrictive, related only to local village communities. The loss of the Slapton Line would have regional consequences. It is one the Britain's most scenic routes supporting tourism and wider economy of Kingsbridge, Dartmouth and beyond.

It was agreed to register these concerns with SHDC and to call for more a comprehensive approach.

13. Traffic Speed Control Initiative

It was reported that Devon CC's Traffic Orders, Policy & Programme Team remained resistant to supporting the siting of additional vehicle activated speed signs (VAS) in Frogmore. The Parish Council, has requested a response from their 'Speed Compliance Activation Forum' (SCARF) for consent to a VAS location on the A379 approach from Kingsbridge.

14. Community Fund Applications

As noted in the Open Forum, an application received for a bench seat at the Sherford war memorial to support community coffee mornings at St Martin's Church can be approved in principle as a public amenity to be held on the parish asset register.

15. Sherford War Memorial Ground Improvements

It was recorded that the hard landscaping works around the war memorial were completed at a cost of £5,071.05 plus £1,014.21 VAT.

16. Grass-cutting / Ground Maintenance

SH / PH confirmed that fixed price tenders for the following grass cutting works had been invited from the three local contractors who have recently satisfactorily carried out work for the Parish Council.

- A) Frogmore village hall – Sherford cross (north side) including the village hall grass – 127 m.
- B) Frogmore bridge – Sherford cross (south side) to include the bus stop surround – 142 m.
- C) A379 west from Frogmore to Springfield farm shop – 240 m.
- D) Public footpath 56 – A379 south side to field gate – 43 m.

The contractors:

Greener Gardens
Neville Brooking
Simon the Gardener

Tender returns to be reported.

17. Tree Warden

SH reported that Devon Highways did not consider the defoliated ash tree close to Frogmore village hall, adjacent to the A379 to be their responsibility. They considered that this was on FVCA land and as a consequence title deeds and responsibility would be checked. Devon Highways would however inspect the young tree now growing out of Frogmore bridge.

A.O.B.

AM tabled alternative designs for the illustrative Sherford Village entry roadside name boards to be funded in the sum of circa £2,700 through a Vision Zero grant. A selection to be made following informal consultation with parishioner.

Next meeting - Monday, 18th September 2023 @ 7.00 pm at Frogmore Village Hall.