

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON, ON MONDAY, 15th APRIL 2024
 HELD IN FROGMORE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM**

Present. Cllr Peter Hadley (Chair) PH Cllr Ben Johnson (Vice Chair) BJ Cllr Ed Fevyer EF Cllr Antony Marshall AM Cllr Nick White NW Cllr Nigel Smith NS Cllr Tamsin Oakley Cllr Steve Hart SH	In Attendance: SHDC Cllr Julian Brazil JB SHDC Cllr Laurel Lawford LL Helen Leather (Parish Clerk) HL Parishioners/Guests: 3	Apologies:
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REPORT IT:

Potholes: Members of the public are requested to report all Highways issues through the Highways Website, enabling faster assessment of problem areas which can then be added to the repair/maintenance schedules. You can report potholes, overgrown vegetation, defective signs/lighting and much more.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/report-a-pothole-form/>

To report: Abandoned Vehicle, Damaged or Full Dog Bin, Damaged/Full Litter Bin, Damaged/Full Recycling Bank, Dead Animal, Dirty Beach, Fly Tipping, Litter/Dog Mess, Planning Breach, Stray Dogs, AND MORE...

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/report-it>

It takes two minutes to report a problem, please help keep our community beautiful.

1. Open Forum

Sylvia Grahamslaw reported on some good news. A particularly large pot hole in the Sherford ward on Church Lane going towards Charleton had been filled in. Unfortunately, the verge, which is also falling away had not been repaired, and Sylvia Grahamslaw will report it again.

2. Apologies for Absence

None were received.

3. Declarations of Interest

None Declared.

4. County Councillor Report

Email: julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk

Devon and Torbay Devolution. Although noting a level of opposition, the public consultation has now ended and Devon CC has a special full council meeting to discuss this on 22nd April 2024 when it is expected to be signed off. And then it goes to Westminster to be written up on the Statute book. If everything goes smoothly it should be finalised by October, but then there might be a general election. Full details of the deal can be found at: <https://www.devontorbaydeal.org.uk/>

The wall at Stoke Fleming is progressing well and the A379 is now open.

Slapton Line. Members from Devon County Council will be attending Stokenham, Slapton and Strete Parish Councils to look at the back roads, because they want to improve the north-south roads.

5. County Councillor Laurel Lawford

Email: Cllr.Laurel.Lawford@southhams.gov.uk

The Village Halls Small Grants Fund will now remain open until 31 December 2024 subject to availability. The fund provides grants of between £2,000 and £5,000 to help make improvements to rural community buildings in England. The funding is provided by Defra and administered by the charity Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). Grants are intended to support smaller capital projects in village halls such as boiler replacements, insulation, toilet upgrades and new kitchens. Grants are available to cover 20% of the eligible capital project costs including the VAT. There is no upper limit for the total capital costs. Smaller projects will be prioritised. All project work must be complete before the end of March 2025. Details can be found at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/village-halls-small-grants-fund/>

Community Composting – there will be a two-day Community Composting Masterclass on 27 and 28 April 2024 from 10:00 - 15:00 at South Brent Old School Community Centre, Totnes Rd, South Brent, TQ10 9BP. The course will offer a deep dive for all those interested in developing a community composting site. Booking is essential at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/two-day-community-composting-masterclass-tickets-855822206257?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Cllrs Brazil and Lawford left the meeting.

6. Minutes of Previous Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March were approved by Councillors and signed by the Chair.

7. Clerk's Report

A reminder that the next meeting on 20th May 2024 will be the Annual General Meeting of the Council when the chair and members of committees will be elected.

The Clerk asked if any councillors would volunteer to be the Parish Footpath Co-ordinator for Footpath Number 1 – Sherford to Stancombe. Cllr Anthony Marshall kindly volunteered.

8. Matters arising from Previous Meeting.

I. Pool Hill

Cllr Hadley reported that he had written a report on the Pool Hill culvert (see Appendix A) . The problems relating to drainage are because the road has been resurfaced without taking into account the camber, and the water flow goes from East to West. There's no engineering device to stop it. The existing east side draining ditch is now blocked and has been reduced in width. This has contributed greatly to flooding. The Council will submit Appendix A with explanatory photos / design diagrams.

II. Defibrillator Update

The faulty Defibrillator that had been outside the Globe Inn cannot be fixed. The Parish has been offered a replacement for £600. Councillors agreed this was a very good price and to proceed with the purchase.

III. Road Ward Training.

Cllr Hadley will investigate updating his lapsed 'Street-Works' qualification in order to be able to help fix minor potholes in the parish later in the year. Cllr White also volunteered to investigate enrolment on a 'Chapter 8' qualification 'Street Works' training course.

9. Slapton Line Update

Nothing to report this month.

10. Community Fund Update

No applications this month

11. Parish Councillor Reports

- a) Cllr Hadley - Walking and Cycling Active Travel. Cllr Hadley had invited Cllr Sue Gorman from Charleton Parish Council to tell the meeting about the initiative.

Sue Gorman stated:

"I joined the Charleton Parish Council last May, primarily to try and help make the roads a bit safer because I'm a runner and I found that most times when I ran along the A379 I was scared and there were not enough safe paths, so I thought I would join the parish council and do what I can to improve road safety. I am also part of Sustainable South Hams, and I could see that there are many local groups and local networks trying to improve cycle paths and walkways, so I just kept following the information and I realised that the Active Travel pot of money was being used to fund consultations. I think they went out to market to the local area towards the end of last year. All Parish Councillors probably all got a link to it and we sent it out to our parishioners asking them to fill in the questionnaire. Gemma Bristow is the contact at South Hams District Council and she got back to Charleton to tell them they had had an unprecedented response of 1,500 plus parishioners. So clearly there's an appetite for more cycle paths. And the key thing that is stopping people cycling, walking, tackling obesity and living a healthy lifestyle is actually road safety? It's too frightening on our roads and yet we are a tourist area. So, at the beginning of March, we had an email from Gemma Bristow asking us to look at the map that they had put together through all the consultations, which showed the areas that are going to get the first stage of funding or at least be included in the trial. We didn't expect to be included, and it's really positive that Chillington is included. What was interesting about it was the terminology because they were very positive about 20 mph speed limits and also about virtual footpaths. I've only been a Charleton Parish Council for a year, but already I am used to Devon County highways saying that they 'cannot do anything'. They will only change something if there is a serious accident, which is not really good enough.

I'm very keen to keep an eye on the Active Travel survey. If all the parishes work together then we have more power. Torcross have problems with speeding, Frogmore do, Charleton have a 20-mph vehicle activated sign that that nobody complies with. This has recently been updated and we will be tracking statistics formally. And Charleton have a virtual footpath that Devon Highways say they 'don't support'. We have parishioners come to us over the course of late summer saying that their families have almost been killed. I mean, it's that dramatic. We've done our own survey, to which Cllr Hadley kindly gave advice and we got advice from Torcross. We have 90 householder responses and they all agreed we've got an issue. So now we've got that survey and the results, we can take it forward and we know it's not just one family's issue, it's actually 34% of our parishioners. I think we have to get something done."

Cllr Hadley said he was happy to work with Charleton Parish Council so that there is a consistent approach between the councils between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge.

Cllr Ed Fevyer asked for clarification whether this was about existing highways speed limit being reduced, virtual pathways, or are we talking about putting a separate track in a field that is used as a footpath or cycleway. What is it you're looking at?

Sue Gorman replied that in her view of the Active Travel survey she didn't think at this stage it involved buying up land. The consultants as part of the project had walked and cycled the South Hams in key identified areas, so it wasn't everywhere. It looks like areas where the speed limit goes from 40 to 20 but the environment hasn't changed. She thinks they are looking at putting virtual footpaths in. If funding is an issue to get the scheme moving then there is enough passion in the combined parishes to raise money.

Cllr Fevyer replied he had asked the question because he knows someone that had a cycle path and footpath placed in a field behind their property. The general consensus in the community had been for the new path, but now the community has come to the conclusion it's one of the worst things they have done for a number of reasons. It's increased traffic through the village. The demographic of people that are walking across the footpath at 2:00 in the morning, who are fuelled with alcohol or other substances isn't conducive to that environment. It also caused a huge amount of flooding in the houses, along with a certain stretch of road because natural flood defences have been removed. If good planning can mean there is a path all the way to Kingsbridge then he is all for it.

12. Planning Applications.

Part A: Planning Applications (response dates noted)

- a) 0939/24/FUL - Winslade Farm, Frogmore, TQ7 2PA - Erection of agricultural building for manure storage. **26th April 2024.** Cllrs to review the application and report any observations to the Clerk prior to the deadline.

Part B: South Hams Planning Decisions:

- a) **0298/24/ARC.** Applicant: Mr & Mrs Causer. Homefield Farm, Sherford, TQ7 2AT. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (CMP), 4 (Nesting Bird Method Statement) and 6 (Biodiversity Enhancement Plan) of planning consent.
Approved
- b) **0080/24/CLP.** Applicants: Mr & Mrs P Rodgers. Malston Farm, Sherford TQ7 2BB. Application: certificate of lawfulness for proposed ancillary accommodation - **Refused. A new application for the same - 0797/24/CLP - was submitted and approved on 07.03.24. Clerk has queried but no response to date.** Cllr Hadley confirmed that the application is for a caravan, not a building, for which the law allows.

13. Finance

Councillors agreed to pay – Clerks Salary. DALC membership £189.89. SHDC Payroll Services for Clerk £120.00. Councillor Hadley would try and get a bank mandate to update signatories and approvals on the Lloyds Bank.

14. Any Other Business

Cllr White reported that he had gone to see the Harbour Office regarding the boat tied to bench at the Creek. The boat concerned was registered to be kept at White Strand and not Frogmore.

He also reported that there are a number of boats on the foreshore which shouldn't be there because they are not licensed.

A railing has been placed on the foreshore from 'Seaflowers' as well as a high mooring rope that is an obstruction danger to shore users. Councillors will look into this and contact the Harbour Master and discuss at the next meeting,

Cllr Hadley wondered if the Parish Council needed a Creek Steward who would monitor the foreshore. This will be discussed in full at the next meeting.

15. Dates of Next Meeting

The dates for the next meetings are – 20th May (Annual General Parish Meeting) - Sherford, 17th June (Frogmore), 15th July (Sherford). No meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 20.25.

Signed as a true record:

Print Name & Date:

Agenda Items and Updates; where possible please submit to the Clerk one week prior to the meeting to ensure time for inclusion, circulation, and study. If a Council Member is unable to attend a meeting it would be appreciated if they could submit a brief précis of progress on their actions, if applicable, (to the Clerk for distribution) together with their apologies.

Distribution List: Frogmore and Sherford Parish Councillors. For Information to: County Cllr J Brazil, South Hams District Councillor Laurel Lawford, Frogmore and Sherford Parish Website: <https://frogmoreandsherford.co.uk/>

Appendix A - Frogmore and Sherford Parish Council**Pool Hill, Frogmore, TQ7 2NU, Drainage****Background**

Frogmore and Sherford Parish Council has been alerting DCC to surface water flooding problems at Pool Hill, Frogmore since January 2022. (Ref. Appendix A). The road was resurfaced during (month/year??), but without reference to the Parish Council and a resolution to the drainage problems.

The on-going drainage issue

Road carriageway surface rainwater and abutting spring-fed bank run-off waters continue to flow all year round, east to west across and down Pool Hill for a distance of some 120 m. as the road approaches the Frogmore Bridge junction with Mill Lane. This gives rise to unacceptable carriageway water over-flows, causing dangerous driving conditions, exacerbated during cold / freezing weather. Water borne mud and debris is also an unwelcome daily pedestrian (elderly and school-children) safety hazard, there being no pavements in the lower section. Meanwhile two utilities service chambers set in the carriageway remain visually waterfilled.

Underlying flood causation

Pool Hill is a heavily used highway linking the Portlemouth / Prawle peninsula with the A379. The carriageway was originally provided with a flanking east-side drainage ditch, collecting surface run-off and ground / spring waters, conducting them to a manhole and thence via an under-road west flowing drain, discharging safely below high-water level into Frogmore creek. It is evident that the discharge drain still operates, albeit at a trickle.

In the absence of road bank maintenance, the drainage ditch became obscured for some time. In response to parish council requests, dating from January 2022, a DCC team carried out an initial bank overgrowth 'strip' on [23rd] March, 2024. The extent of the problem and need for pressing remedies are now evident:

1. The drainage channel is blocked / back-filled with mud and 'road material' and now of minimal depth and capacity.
2. It would appear that the ditch width has been reduced though tarmac carriageway resurfacing.
3. Resurfacing has eliminated, in part, the necessary camber surface profile necessary to prevent 100% surface water drainage flow crossing the carriageway into the west gutter.
4. The remaining bank overgrowth, roots and existing buddle-holes feeding into the ditch require cleaning out and regular maintenance.

Action**Conclusions and recommendation****(Plan and photographs to be added)**

Appendix A (transcribed from PC minutes)

JAN 22

Cllr. JB: The problem of water streaming down South Pool Road was with DCC.

FEB 22

Cllr. JB: South Pool Road remedial works would be carried out in March [2022]

MAR 22

Cllr. JB: The remedial work on South Pool Road had been deferred to the Autumn [2022] due to the overrun of the work in Church Street, Kingsbridge.

OCT22

[Pool Hill] water channel in the village. This awaits action by DCC to dig out the channel which is a drain blocked with rubbish. Cllr. JB has notified Highways about this. Resolved to send a letter and photographs to DCC to demonstrate the nature of the blockage. The Clerk to explain to Lisa Edmonds that the works are maintenance and not capital works.

NOV 22

Cllr. JB: County Councillor Report. Pool road carriageway surface water / sewage DCC and South West Water responses awaited. JB stated difficulty of explaining to highways teams the scope of non-standard works.

JUN 23

Cllr. Lawford noted the ongoing (east side) surface drainage overflow issue on Pool Hill. This required a drainage gully and the possible re-use of an existing surface water under road discharge drain into the head of the creek.

JUL 23

It was agreed 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.

JAN 24

Councillors reported that Neville Brooking had requested mechanical digger assistance to dig out the overgrown bank blocking the gully. Councillors agreed this was a sensible idea and Cllrs Hadley and Oakley to obtain quotes.