

## **27 Members of the public were present**

An update by Hopwood Swallow regarding the proposed Planning application V & A Car park was given. The Council was advised that a public consultation would be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 3.00pm to 7.00pm in the Old School Room.

A presentation by Lynne Kenderdine, the Country Wildlife Site Officer of the Devon Wildlife Trust was given on her findings when visiting Hoyle Copse. She advised that she was impressed with the amount of work carried out in clearing various areas and the amount of both wildlife and flowers which were present. Lynne advised that she would prepare an on- going management plan for future work in the Copse which would be available early next year.

**Present:** Mr R Tully (Chairman), Mrs C. Hunt, Miss E Bridge, Miss P Ellis, Mr P. Fenwick, Mrs R. Garner  
Mr I. Jones, Mr H Rawlings and Mr J Robinson.

**In Attendance** District Cllr Rose Rowe

**1** Apologies – None

**2** Police Report – Although no report was received it was noted that a burglary was carried out at Nick Allday's Agricultural works in Coombe House Lane on a Friday evening. The Police were advised and attended the site after the weekend.

**3** To confirm the minutes of the last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Taken as read and signed by the Chairman,

**4** Matters arising from the Minutes – None

**5** Chairman's Report – The Chairman had nothing to report.

**6** Reports from County & District Councillors – Cllr Rowe reported that the District Council held a full Council meeting when the Boundary Review changes and recommendations were discussed. Littlehempston is to join Marldon and part of Berry Pomeroy with Totnes. Stoke Gabriel will join Kingswear, Dartmouth and Townstal being represented by three Cllrs. There will be 31 District Cllrs from 2015. Shared services were discussed and SHDC will be moving forward with West Devon which will result in a saving of some £ 4.7m over four years. These changes will affect office staff but not manual workers. Regarding the County Council Cllr Rowe reported that this has been a quiet spell but finance and budgets had been discussed. Adult Care services had been discussed and there are now 24,000 adults with care packages in place across Devon. With winter approaching there will be more demand on services and DCC is obliged to assist those who are in need of care. The County Peoples budget is £ 6.5m over budget at present. Discussions have taken place concerning depression in older people who live on their own and children with special needs. There are between 400 and 500 school children whose second language is English and new school admissions now have 96% of parents responding on line. Cllr Rowe had attended a farm estates meeting with general information being discussed.

**7** Reports from sub-Committees – Regarding Rowes Meadow Cllr Fenwick advised that Linden Homes are currently getting quotes in order to carry out the traffic calming works to Aish Road as discussed with Richard Jackson. Outstanding landscaping submissions are being addressed and should be resolved soon. The Steering Group met on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> to review the various inputs from the Cavanna Homes public consultation. We are waiting the formal minutes then everything will go on the web-site. There were only 4 additional web inputs. We have requested some minor protocol changes to the site. Cllr Fenwick advised that his latest Neighbourhood Plan draft is around the table. On the cost front direct grants from Locality of up to £7000 is available as well as direct aid of £9500. SHDC are responsible for referendum costs. Cllr Fenwick believes that £4k max on the precept covers the cost of a NP assuming grants are forthcoming. Cllr Fenwick proposed that the Council goes with this draft in line with the motion passed in September with a view to a January 'drop', returned by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014, one week before the next meeting. Cllr Jones stated that he was not present at the October Meeting when the need for a Neighbourhood Plan may have been discussed and possibly a decision made to send a communication regarding it to all Parishioners. After discussing this with some Councillors there seems to be some confusion on this point. He has very strong objections to the proposed Household Drop as it does not fairly state the case against a Neighbourhood Plan and the majority of Parishioners, who of course at this time have little or no knowledge of such plans, after reading the Drop would think that it is good idea and could commit the Council to proceed with a Plan. As there are no deadlines to be met to start preparing a plan, he

could see no reason to proceed at such a lively pace and would propose that further time is taken for all Councillors to become more informed and reach a decision to proceed or not. Also it would be sensible to hold back at this time to observe what other Councils will go ahead and observe the success they may or may not achieve. There is not a case to be made of ‘*missing the boat*’ so why not hang on and observe the success or failure of others? He had attended the workshop at SHDC when Neighbourhood Plans were explained and discussed and at that time and could see no advantages or sound reasons for Stoke Gabriel to have such a plan. What I have learnt since has not changed my opinion. Cllr Jones stated his objections to having such a plan invited others to state their reasons why we should have a Plan. With such submissions it should be possible for Councillors to form a properly considered opinion and if a Household Drop is made, it could clearly state the majority view of the Council. ‘What does the Parish Council think?’ is probably the first question Parishioners will ask followed by the question ‘Why?’ Cllr Tully responded stating that he had attended a Totnes Town Council Neighbourhood Plan meeting. Totnes has a population of 8 thousand people but only 21 were present. Chris Balch, a leading professor of planning gave a presentation of how a Neighbourhood plan would replace the LDF and lead into a local plan which could come into force in 2015/16. It could be used as a means of preventing future development. Nationally 683 plans have been produced with less than 10 actually approved. SHDC have only 7 plans started. At the Super Cluster meeting the Chief Executive of SHDC advised that since the Local Plan, the new framework had perhaps set up some expectations that would never be met as SHDC had to work within the national framework and were unable to unilaterally speed the pace. The Neighbourhood plan is a two year plan and should reflect special characteristics and open spaces, be a plan for the people and produced by them. Everyone should be engaged including all landowners and developers and have a positive approach. A Neighbourhood plan could not change the overriding National or local planning policy and other European laws. It must be community led to engage all sectors of a Parish and work closely with the local District Council. The whole process would be very time consuming and should be not be left to the Council alone to draw up. Many volunteers would be needed and costs should also be considered. Once the Neighbourhood plan had been prepared an independent examiner will check that it meets the right basic standards and the District Council would then organise a referendum. This would ensure that the Parish has the final say as to whether it wishes a plan to be submitted. If more than 50% of voters support the plan the local authority must bring into place. So after two years work plus expenses it could be possible that the idea is thrown out by public vote. Although a Neighbourhood plan carries legal weight it cannot stop any future proposed developments. Cllr Fenwick advised that his adjusted draft letter drop would be passed to all Cllrs and it was agreed to hold a Parish Council in December to discuss this document and agreed on the way forward. This meeting will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December in the village hall. Cllr Garner reported that the Parish Plan Group continued holding their monthly meetings and Cllr Rawlings advised that with assistance from members of the public good progress was being made on the new web site.

**8 Planning** The following planning applications had been considered at a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at which the following councillors were present: Hunt, Ellis, Robinson, and Bridge.

1. Edenvale, The Barnhay – Alterations and extension **No Objection**
2. Sweets Meadow, Vicarage Road – Erection of rendered block gate posts and pedestrian gate. **No objection**

Planning Applications Granted by SHDC –

1. Tamberly, Duncannon Lane – Alterations to roof

Planning Applications refused by SHDC – None

Applications Withdrawn – None

Appeals Received by SHDC – None

Ongoing Applications – Cllr Robinson advised that he and the Chairman had signed the TP1 land transfer form regarding the access strip from Aish Road to the burial site. As the recent survey had been positive and had been submitted to SHDC he requested agreement to approach the landowner with a view to exchanging solicitor details and start the purchase of the land process. This was agreed by all.

**9 Items raised on behalf of the Clerk –** Regarding the Castle Inn issues Cllr Robinson advised that he had contacted the local agent who had agreed to contact the owners. Ross Kennerly, Recreation Manager of SHDC had submitted his proposed allocations of funding. Discussion took place and it was

agreed that Cllrs Fenwick and Robinson meet again with Mr Kennerly to finalise further suggestions made by the Council. Cllr Robinson advised that he had meet with Lisa Edmonds of Devon Highways who had written to Landmark regarding parking of vehicles on the verges in Paignton Road. Landmark had agreed to stop parking there and assured Lisa that they would tidy up the area. It was agreed to monitor the situation and still consider placing boulders to stop further damage to the verges. A meeting with the Co coordinator of Bob the Bus had been arranged for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November when further discussions regarding the bus route round the village would be discussed. Cllr Robinson advised that he and Cllr Tully had attended a super cluster meeting hosted by the both the Leaders of DCC and SHDC when budgets and lack of funding were discussed. With over 8000 miles of roads in the County around £ 30m was spent on repairs annually although the required amount was in excess of £ 60m. It was advised that the Chief Executive of SHDC is retiring at the end of March 2014. The anniversary Oak tree to be supplied by Luscombe May was now ready for planting. Cllr Jones agreed to arrange the proposed ceremony.

**10**      **Hoyle Copse** - Cllr Jones reported that work had recommenced in the Copse and was very pleased that some new members had joined the ‘Gang’. Work had been carried out on removing brambles from the previously coppiced areas and in checking and pruning where necessary on new hazel growth. It was pointed out that children had been using the lime kiln as a play place and had left rubbish and also damaged the coping and stonework on the upper wall. Some work has been delayed whilst awaiting the report from the Devon Wildlife Trust County Wildlife Site Officer, Lynne Kenderdine, following which work can proceed following her recommendations. The Chairman thanked Cllr Jones for arranging tonight’s presentation and for all the hard work undertaken to make Hoyle Copse such a special place especially the seed exchange.

**11**      **Highway and Hedgerow Matters** – Cllr Jones advised that the finger post in Aish Road was still broken. Cllr Rowe agreed to look into this. Cllr Jones also requested agreement to lower a tall Christmas tree in the Copse and present it to the church for their festive decorations. This was agreed by all. Cllr Ellis advised that there were large potholes in Broadpath and ivy was still present on the Church stone wall. Cllr Jones advised that this would soon be looked at. Cllr Bridge advised that the pavement area outside Stoke Gabriel Stores was becoming dangerous when wet or icy and a number of Parishioners had slipped causing them injury. It was agreed to contact Devon Highways. *Since the meeting Cllr Robinson has arranged for a meeting with Lisa Edmonds to look at the problem.* Recently a fire engine became stuck in School Hill by indiscriminate parking of a disabled badge holder’s vehicle.

**12**      **Matters raised by Councillors** – Cllr Bridge suggested that a new housing needs survey should be carried out before the planning proposals for the Paignton Road site are submitted. She thought that after the problems with Rowes Meadow it was likely that a survey would show that there was not such a great need for affordable homes in the Parish. This was agreed and volunteers to carry the letter drop would be welcome.

**13**      **Accounts -** Cllr Robinson advised that he had prepared budgets for 2014/2015 and proposed that the Annual Precept for next year should remain the same. This was proposed by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Jones and agreed.

To agree the following payments. It was proposed by Cllr Ellis and seconded by Cllr Rawlings to make these payments

SWH Signs – Unsuitable access sign	£ 78.60
Green Ecology – Land survey	£ 666.00
Plandscape – November Orchard hedge cut	£ 161.30

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

**Date of next Meeting-**      **2014 dates to be advised**      .

