

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

Present: Mr R Tully (Chairman), Mrs C Hunt, Miss P Ellis, Mr I Jones, and Mr J Robinson.

In Attendance: County Cllr Trevor Pennington and District Cllr Rose Rowe

**1**      **Apologies** – Miss E Bridge, Mr P. Fenwick, Mrs R. Garner and Mr H Rawlings

**2**      **Police Report** – From a report received Cllr Robinson advised that the police have received complaints that users of the village hall are blocking the emergency fire exit from the primary school. The matter has been discussed with PC Talbot who requests that the Parish council write to the village hall committee and ask that private users and organisations and groups using the hall are requested to keep the exit clear for the safety of the children. If the problems persist the police will contact the fire brigade to inform them of the problems as this is not a police matter as it is private land.

**3**      **To confirm the minutes of the last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
Taken as read and signed by the Chairman,

**4**      **Matters arising from the Minutes** –

**5**      **Chairman's Report** – The Chairman reminded the Council that County Cllr Pennington was not standing for re-election at the May County elections and thanked him for all his support and advice over many years. The Chairman then made a presentation of a local picture to Cllr Pennington. Cllr Pennington thanked the Chairman, the Council and the members of the Parish for their support and advised that he enjoyed attending the Parish meetings. He confirmed that he would remain a District Cllr and looked forward to future involvement with the Parish. From the floor Mrs Barbara Heath thanked Cllr Pennington for all his support on behalf of the many Parishioners who had received advice from him.

**6**      **Reports from County & District Councillors** – Cllr Rowe advised that the results of the Electoral review had been published and Stoke Gabriel had been aligned with Kingswear giving an electorate of 2320 which is 7% below the target. The Political Structure working group will be meeting in April to make a recommendation to full council at the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> May. The new wards will come into practice at the next District election in May 2015. The District planning committee is going to be reduced to 10 members. As discussed at the last meeting the District intends to close the public toilets for four months each year. This would save about £ 80,000.00 per year. It was agreed that this Council would consider taking on the task of keeping the toilets clean during this period and discussions will take place with South Hams. Cllr Pennington advised that the County Council tax had been frozen for the coming year. For the third successive year a public consultation had been undertaken with over 16,500 people participating. The key findings were to protect community care services for older people, safeguarding vulnerable children and residential and nursing care. Areas where money could be saved were street lighting, planning and development control and countryside heritage and arts.

**7**      **Reports from Sub-Committees** From a report received from Cllr Fenwick Cllr Robinson advised that discussions regarding the footpath exit on to Aish Road opposite Crowley Lane were still ongoing and we intend to protect the Devon bank. Regarding the Steering Group Cllrs Robinson & Fenwick have taken advice from SHDC and had discussions with Cavanna & a steering group member from Dartington. They have identified candidates who can provide a broad base of skills, village involvement, and availability to be members of the group. Cllr Fenwick hopes to finalise this in the next 10 days after some additional discussions. On behalf of Cllr Fenwick Cllr Robinson requested that the Council is happy with this approach and are willing to let the two Cllrs make the appointments after these discussions. This was agreed by all. These members would be in addition to 2 Parish Councillors and the District Councillor, as well as a District planning officer and Cavanna representatives. The Council would then advise Cavanna that it has reached this stage so that we can get the process moving. The Parish Council will encourage as many people as possible to participate in working groups throughout the process we are about to embark on. Regarding Marine Conservation inputs Cllr Fenwick is looking at this again and will bounce a response around the working party and submit by 31<sup>st</sup> March. From a report received from Cllr Garner Cllr Robinson reported

that the SGPPG group is now ready to host its first open meeting on Monday 15th April at 9.15 am in the Baptist Chapel Meeting Rooms. Members of the group would like to start preparing for the upcoming Cavanna consultations, and Stoke Gabriel's chartered surveyor Richard Harris has offered to lead the discussion at Monday's meeting. In response to the PC's request, they have also begun to look at Stoke Gabriel's community assets, and will be creating a list at this meeting which will be referred to the PC. Mike Webster has written an article for the parish magazine, but they would be grateful if the PC could also put a copy on its notice board. Everyone is welcome, and in response to concerns from Cllrs Ellis and Bridge regarding the time, a further evening meeting will be offered if there is sufficient interest. There was a positive response to the PP group's articles in the parish magazine, and the parish plan website is now being worked on.

**8 Planning** The following planning application had been considered at a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013

The Rivershack, Mill Hill – Re -advertisement construction of timber decking projecting over Mill Pond.

**No objection**

Planning Applications Granted by SHDC –

Land at SX 852, Stoke Gabriel – Retention of portable pheasant rearing units April to September only

Planning Applications refused by SHDC – None

Applications Withdrawn – None

Appeals Received by SHDC – None

Ongoing Applications – None

**9 Items raised on behalf of the Clerk** – Cllr Robinson read out an e-mail received from the Chief Fire Officer regarding proposed grant reductions which would result in cutting service standards. It was agreed to respond by taking part in their consultation process. From a point raised by Cllr Rowe Cllr Robinson advised that he was aware that the Local Government Boundary Commission had decided to support the thirty member option for the size of the District Council. Cllr Robinson stated that this was against the wish of many District Cllrs and out of submissions by 23 Parish Councils 20 were opposed to the reduction including this Council. It was agreed by all that a strong letter be sent to the Boundary Commission advising them of our amazement at this potential decision. Cllr Robinson also advised that he receives the regular South Hams Society bulletin and their AGM would be held at Kingsbridge on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The potential CPO on land that may be used for an alternative burial site was still on-going with the District Council. Cllr Ellis advised that the Church had indicated that the present burial ground would be able to continue for about another four years.

**10 Hoyle Copse** Cllr. Jones reported that despite the adverse weather, work had continued in the Copse.. More small trees and shrubs collected from within the Copse have been planted to improve the screen of the Linden Homes development. Bramble s have been strimmed in cleared areas so the bluebells can be appreciated and 3 ash trees were removed on the north boundary near the large beech. New hedging plants have planted on this boundary bank. The retired Stoke Gabriel in Bloom Group has suggested that some funds that they still have could be used to plant a new cider apple tree in the Village Orchard. This was agreed by the Council and a suitable tree will be planted shortly together with the tree currently awaited in memory of a local parishioner. It is hoped that the Hoyle Copse Gang will carry out this planting and other clearing work very shortly.

**11 Highway and Hedgerow Matters** – Cllr Ellis reported that the dead chestnut tree in Paignton Road had not been cleared. Cllr Jones agreed to attend to this. During the recent heavy rain flooding had occurred in Paignton Road and parking at the junction with the Totnes Road at the Parkers Arms and at Long Coombe Cross was causing obstructions. It was agreed to write to Torbay Council. Cllr Jones advised that the new road sign post in Aish was now in place but the arm to the village was missing. Cllr Rowe raised concerns

about vehicles using Hoyle Lane to access the village. Cllr Robinson requested confirmation that the grounds maintenance quotation for 2013 received from Plandscape should be accepted. This was agreed.

**12 Matters raised by Councillors** – Cllr Ellis raised concerns about the access strip which had been purchased by the Parish Council from Linden Homes. Cllr Robinson advised that he had met with David Kenyon, District Planning Officer during the afternoon and further meetings had been arranged to meet with Devon Highways and Linden Homes and the interests of the Parish would be looked after.

**13 Accounts**

**To agree the following payments**

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Hunt to make these payments

J Robinson – Expenses	£ 38.00
South Hams District Council – Litter bin at War memorial	£ 430.76
Stoke Gabriel Village Hall – Hire X 3	£ 42.00
Robin Teague – Owl box Hoyle Copse	£ 79.00
South Hams District Council – Work at the play area	£ 417.48

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

**Date of next Meeting- The next meeting is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013**