**Churchstow Parish Council**

 **Minutes**

of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 2025

Held at Churchstow Church Hall @ 7:30pm

**Present:** Cllrs Stewart (Chair), Hind, Woodley, Green, Williams and Bromfield. Louisa Pepperell (Clerk). Cllr Louise Wainwright (DCC). Cllr Lee Bonham (SHDC).

**Apologies:** Cllr Barrett-Burn.

**Chairman’s Welcome.**

**10 Minute Public Forum.**  No members of the public attended.

**Minutes from the last meeting (17/06/2024):** This meeting was cancelled so no minutes to sign.

**Visit from Ian Cumberlidge – Lengthsman:** Ian discussed potential works for the parish and his terms. It was agreed that Cllr Stewart and Cllr Green would be in touch with Ian to arrange a site meeting to show him the parish and ‘trouble’ spots before having further conversations about possible employment of services. Ian confirmed he has Chapter 8 Insurance and can be employed on an adhoc or fixed hours per month basis.

**Presentation from Louise Wainwright, Chair of River Avon Water Quality Group:** Louise did not present this evening.

**DCC Cllr Report:**  Cllr Wainwright attended for the first time since being elected as DCC representative, she advised the PC of her aspirations for the role and her view on the upcoming devolution, she wishes to encourage parishes to communicate and share information more, she will also be setting up an apolitical digital publication called ‘The Same Page’ and would like all parishes to contribute and use it as a platform to share. Cllr Wainwright has also been working with Highways and has agreed that ‘Highways’ be an agenda item at each PC meeting and any issues be brought up there and the Clerk to relay them to Louise if she is not present at that meeting, She also reiterated that the PC can contact her at any time if they feel there is something she may be able to help with.

**SHDC Cllr Bonham Report:** Cllr Bonham reported that he had found that the music event on 1st – 2nd August near Bantham roundabout has registered a Temporary Event Notice with SHDC. We have reviewed the event management and risk plans. There should be notification with local residents and noise monitoring. Any issues can be reported to licensing@swdevon.gov.uk or reported on the ‘report it’ website at the time of concern. Cllr Stewart asked Cll Bonham if the PC could be informed after the event how many complaints were received so they can be in possession of that information moving forward.

With Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon, South Hams is inviting residents to help shape the future of local government by letting us know what matters to you. More information and a survey is at www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

Over the next few months, a series of engagement events around South Hams will be taking place, likely to include 2 October at 18:15 in Kingsbridge KCC.

SHDC is publicising a new way to check if a call or message from your bank is genuine; Call 159 – it’s a UK-wide phone number that connects you directly to your bank’s fraud team.

The Government has announced that postal votes approved before 31 October 2023 will need to be reapplied for by 31 January 2026, details at <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/postal-vote-renewal>.

**Matters arising from last minutes:**

**Vice Chairman Election.** Cllr Stewart proposed Cllr Hind, agreed unanimously.

**Clerk’s Report:**

***Invoices Payable.*** Payments were agreed for Cllr Hind reimbursement of S106 gate £57.85, FutureClient for domain name £36, Clerk salary £475.54, Clerk expenses £21.48, John Woodley grasscutting £211.20.

***S106 Gate.*** Cllr Hind has been in touch with Mike Wootton regarding getting this installed.

**Additional Matters:**

**Highways.** The suggestion from Highways to make Pump Lane ‘no entry’ from the end by the Churchhouse Inn was discussed. It was agreed that that would not help alleviate drivers who are ignoring the ‘no right turn’ sign, and would cause a diversion for residents in Glebelands, Woodlands, Tithe Hill and Scotts Close. The Clerk asked the Cllrs how they felt about making Pump Lane a ‘no entry’ from Elston end. A discussion was had, Cllr Stewart suggested it be ‘no right turn’ instead. The Clerk is to contact Highways regarding both options to gauge their opinion.

A discussion was had regarding the speed of traffic, Cllr Bromfield who lives adjacent to Elston junction commented at how often there are accidents. Cllr Stewart suggested asking the police to visit and then support the PC in approaching Highways to reduce the speed / get a speed camera installed. Cllr Wainwright suggested the PC request a SCARF is undertaken by Highways (a week long discreet speed monitoring). Cllr Wainright also mentioned the option of putting ‘parish sign’ up to request drivers reduce speed / take care, these must not look similar to Highways signs and must only be put up on PC land.

The Clerk is also to ask Highways if they have checked that the grass cutting is being done to plan at Elston as the PC were querying if the cutting is being done far enough along the verges.

**S106 Committee.** The Clerk is to set up a date as soon as possible that the PC and Ian Pepperell (advisory architect who has provided initial provisional plans) can attend so as to firm up what is achievable before then organising a public consultation.

***Councillor Advocate Scheme.***  Cllr Williams reported that there has been a reshuffle in staffing of this scheme, with the original officer now returning and there is to be an online seminar in September.

**Any Other Business:** Cllr Hind brought the recent letter from MP Caroline Voaden to the PC, it alerts to a petition that she encourages people sign to encourage the Post Office to support rural venues. A discussion was had and it was agreed it looks unlikely that Churchstow will have their PO reinstated. Cllr Woodley said it is vital that parishioners support the shop throughout the year to ensure we do not lose that valuable amenity also, all Cllrs agreed.

Cllr Williams brought up the recent communication he had received from The Clerk asking for advise on the process for registering the lease for the land by the bus stop with Land Registry. Cllr Williams advised the Clerk to revert to DCC and ask if they would be able to facilitate the registration if the PC cover costs, the Clerk will do so.

Cllr Green asked the Clerk if she had progressed the idea of extending the 164 bus route to link Totnes to Churchstow, the Clerk confirmed that she was not receiving any replies to her emails for her contact regarding buses in DCC. Cllr Wainwright offered to help with this matter, the Clerk is to send her details. The Clerk asked if she could also send details of the school bus allocation / safety concerns for her to follow up on, Cllr Wainwright agreed.

Cllr Woodley reminded the PC that the Church Fete is due to be held at Whitehall Manor on 16th August, but Cllr Woodley is in need of more volunteers to set up and run the event. The Clerk is to put up some adverts requesting anyone who is able to help to please contact John on 07970 758998, or find him / leave a message for him in the village shop, or email the Clerk on churchstowpc@gmail.com with contact details and she will pass on to John.

The meeting closed at 9:55pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th September 2025 @7:30pm in Churchstow Church Hall.**