

Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council
held on 19th September 2017 at the Stratton Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, H Richardson, A Wheeler, C/Cllr J Hayes, D/Cllrs F Horsington and T Yarker plus four members of the public.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all attendees.

41/17 Public Participation

Three members of the public expressed their feelings regarding traffic speed through the village and thanked the Council for sending out the "powerful" letter. The initial impact of the letter was a slight reduction in speed but it didn't last long. They feel that there are approximately four or five residents who are regularly speeding, however also believe the majority of offenders are non-residents. Some people at the east end of the village have difficulty turning around when using the cattle field entrance area. Their view is obscured when entering back onto Dorchester Road. A sign at the entrances to the village would be welcome, as shown at Maiden Newton.

The public also commented on what a difference that the new Contractor has made to The Village Green and for taking pride in his work.

C/Cllr J Haynes gave a report on:

Local Government Review - Still no confirmation from the Secretary of State whether he will support the move to two unitary authorities for Dorset. We could hear in mid-September. All councils need to work closely together to make savings and provide a better service. Informal cross-party meeting held of lead members of the Districts and County Council to look at potential areas where this could happen and areas considered "no go" areas. The session was positive and will be followed by monthly meetings at South Walks House open to the public.

Clinical Services Review - Consultation has finished and the results published. Process has been reviewed by the Dorset Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, with recommendations sent to the CCG who will make a final decision on the 20th September. This could make a positive difference for people with better mental health facilities, more care out in the community and health hubs which will provide GP services. Implementation plan is over a five-year period.

Delayed transfers of Care - Dorset has had congratulations from the Minister as the most improved council area on Delayed transfers of Care (DTC) from hospitals. Currently in the top 10% and this is thanks to hard work in integrated teams within hospitals and social care.

Accountable Care System - Dorset as a county has been put up as one of eight areas to be the next accountable care systems. This is very positive and will bring in more capital money for health and help deliver the Clinical Service review objectives. Our Sustainability and Transformation plan - has been graded as outstanding.

Children's Services - at DCC are still struggling with budget control and are currently £7M overspent. The problem is the number of children in care and the lack of foster carers. A fast track recruitment drive is to take place to involve more people in this worthwhile vocation.

Environment - We continue to be rewarded for the service provided by the Dorset Waste Partnership and our Highways teams. Have been awarded substantial funding to support our "Live Well" project to encourage people to take outdoor activity as part of a Public Health bid.

Temporary Ring and Ride Bus Service - Over the trial period, the take up was disappointing, with a loss of £150 per month. However, the popular days were Wednesdays and Fridays.

D/Cllr T Yarker reported that the District Council are advancing plans for developing Dorchester. An open day is planned to understand what the Council are thinking for Charles Street and Fairfield. Cllr C Hobbs commented that the width of car parking spaces is an issue.

D/Cllr F Horsington reported that the District Planning Committee are working on the local housing plan, with Charminster being a strong area for development

Cllr C Hobbs received complements from the Portland Brownie Leader for Stratton and the Village Hall's facilities available to the brownies during their stay in August.

42/17 Code of Conduct/ Declaration of Interest

The Chairman reminded the Council of the need for Councillors to declare if they had any interest in any of the items to be discussed in the agenda which had not already been entered in the Member's Register of Interests. Cllr H Richardson declared her interest in Section 137, otherwise no other declarations were made.

43/17 Apologies

Cllr P. Hallett advised that he was not able to attend due to illness.

44/17 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council held on 18th July

The Chairman asked if there were any reasons why the minutes of the meeting of 18th July should not be signed as a true record. All Councillors agreed the minutes and the Chairman duly signed and dated the minutes.

45/17 Matters Arising

- a) Items 28/17b, 20/17 Beacons of Light 11th November 2018
The Council have registered their interest with the Battle's Over - A Nations Tribute. Further information should be received during January 2018.
- b) Item 28/17c, 96/16c, 80/16c, 63/16 Red Telephone Box
The telephone box has been cleaned, repaired and is to be retained.
- c) Item 28/17d, 100/16a Dead Trees overhanging the Playing Field
Work was completed on the 7th and 8th August.
- d) Item 36/17b Section 137 financial donations for voluntary groups
The deadline for applications is the end of September.
- e) Item 36/17c Christmas Carol Arrangements
The Carols are booked for the Friday 15th December, the Durnovaria Silver Band, The Saxon Arms and the Village Hall are booked.

46/17 Finance

a) 2016/2017 Audit

The External Audit Report for 2016/17 has been received and raised two issues regarding the governance arrangements of the Council. These issues are:

Internal Auditor's Report

The issue - the Internal Auditor's findings were not reported to the Council.

It was confirmed that the Internal Auditors verbal comments had been reported at the 18th July Meeting (Minute 29/17). This meeting however, was after the documents had been submitted to the External Auditor, so as such no confirmation could be given that the comments had been reported to the Council at the time of the documents submission.

Minuting of External Auditor's Report – Action Plan not produced

The issue - It is noted that whilst the Council have recorded in the minutes the closure of the audit for the year ended 31st March 2016, it has not specifically recorded the details of the issues raised in the audit and a proposed action plan to address the issues raised.

The Council accepted the comment made, and would ensure that the Internal and External Auditor Reports were correctly reported and recorded in the minutes with any actions plans if required.

An action plan has been made to cover the potential late banking of cheques or cash in the event of the illness to the responsible financial officer. Cover will be provided by the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman to ensure the prompt banking of the Councils assets in the event of the responsible financial officer being ill.

The External Audit Report for 2016/17 was accepted by the Council and the two issues noted.

b) Income and Expenditure

Accounts to 19th September 2017

Monies in the Village Green account cannot be used for any other purpose

Account	Parish	V/Green	Parish Plan	VAT	Balance
Balance b/f	8,754.71	35,080.94	557.94	229.00	44,164.59
Receipts			300.00		300.00
Payments	682.51	594.33	20.00	51.47	1,348.31
Balance c/f	8,072.20	34,486.61	837.94	280.47	43,116.28

PAYMENTS IN

SSFC Donation 300.00

TOTAL £ 300.00

PAYMENTS OUT

DAPTC Training (Cllr Wheeler)	65.00
Harrisons Packaging (Doggie Bags)	33.59
Wood Stain and materials (provided by Cllr Hallett)	100.00
Kevin Kirk (Ash Hill Bus Shelter)	70.00
DAPTC Subs	212.90
Wessex Grounds Services - Jul	155.20
Village Hall	50.62
Kevin Kirk (Village Green Grass Cut) - Aug	90.00
DCC Waste (paid to March 2018)	81.00
The Chalk Stream	20.00
BDO (2016/17 audit)	120.00
Kevin Kirk (Village Green Grass Cut) - Aug	90.00
Kevin Kirk (Village Green Grass Cut) - Sep	90.00
Kevin Kirk (Village Green Hedges) - Sep	195.00
Cancelled cheque - St Johns No 872	-25.00
TOTAL	£ 1,348.31

- c) Budget Monitoring
The budget monitoring position was circulated and we have year-end variations for the grass cutting and training, although the year-end spend will be within budget.
- d) Signatory Changes for Accounts
The change of signatories for the Lloyds Bank Current Accounts has been completed.

47/17 Bus Service (212) alternative arrangements update

Cllr H Richardson and Cllr A Aylott have been heavily involved with various meetings and discussions with regard to the withdrawal of the 212 services and the temporary Ring & Ride service. It is left with the Parish Councils to work together to provide their transport service, if required. Stratton and Frampton Parish Councils have been discussing various options and joint opportunities in producing a transport service of some kind. However, with passenger numbers of 2 or 3 from each village on 2 days a week, providing a service is unlikely to be cost effective.

A proposal worth considering is expanding the Chalk Stream Car Service currently run from Sydling St Nicholas, for this to work satisfactory would require extending the team of dedicated voluntary drivers.

The Council discussed and decided on three options:

- a) Does the Council wish to continue using the Ring & Ride bus service for two days a week? The Council did not wish to enter such a scheme as the costs were unknown and likely to escalate. Unanimous decision to reject this option.
- b) Should the Council setup their own voluntary transport service? As there were no volunteers to help administer the temporary Ring & Ride service, it is highly unlikely there would be any volunteers to run a Stratton service. Unanimous decision to reject this option.
- c) Should the Council to discuss with Frampton Parish Council and the Chalk Stream Car Service to have a combined voluntary car service? The Council agreed it was worth pursuing, with a unanimous decision to explore this option.

48/17 Speed of Traffic Update

A letter has been distributed to all households within Stratton, putting across the hard message to reduce speed within the village. Discussions are in hand with The Saxon Arms to promote speed reduction with their customers. The Council have other approaches to consider.

49/17 General Maintenance

- a) Review of the Maintenance List
 - I. The children's play equipment and the Play area fence have been repaired.
 - II. The hedges and trees at the West end of the village are under the control of Highways, who will be contacted to see if they will cut back the hedges and trees.
 - III. The hedges over hanging the footway from Sawyers Lane to the main road belong to householders who back onto this lane. The owners of the old village hall will be asked if they could trim their hedges, although it is appreciated that they have only recently moved in.
 - IV. The hedges alongside the Village Green are being done in stages as part of the Maintenance Contract.
- b) Maintenance Contract

A draft of the revised contract has been written, further amendments likely before being distributed to Councillors for comment. It is proposed to split the contract, one covering the Village Green and the other for the recreation field.
- c) The Mrs Jackson memorial bench has been removed, ready for the new donated bench to be installed. No dates yet set for work on the Almshouse's bench or the Jubilee bench.

50/17 Planning Matters

- a) Planning Consultations WD/D/17/001811 Dorchester Rd, Grimstone and WD/D/17/001929 Land adjacent to 72 Dorchester Rd were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for comment.

WD/D/17/001811 – no objection
WD/D/17/001929 – raise a general comment about a concern for easement and access rights for local house-owners
The Parish Clerk to enter comments on the Dorset For You Planning Applications website as per the new process.
- b) An updated draft version of the planning process was circulated to the Councillors.

51/17 Parish Plan

The outcome of the parish plan review came up with the following actions:

- a) A summary of the Council meetings to be written up for entry in the Chalk Stream, Cllr C Hobbs to coordinate.
- b) A bonfire safety article to be written however W.D.D.C. may have a suitable pamphlet, Cllr C Hobbs to obtain copies if possible.
- c) Cllr A Wheeler is to write to the Village Hall Management Committee requesting an update on the Village Hall maintenance.

52/17 Highways

Phase 2 of the cycleway is due to start soon, however the start date is unknown.

53/17 Website

Cllrs A Aylott and C Hobbs and the Parish Clerk met to discuss progress. A quote for the migration of the website onto another server has been received however there is further questions that need answering. The Parish Clerk has written to the website developer and is expecting a response soon.

54/17 Correspondence

- a) Ring and Ride Service
A very complementary letter was received.
- b) Traffic Speed Letter
An uncomplimentary letter was received.
- c) Skateboard Ramps
An email was received from a 15-year-old requesting improvements to the skateboard ramps and the ground surface. The skateboard ramps belong to the Youth Club, they are not included within the Council Asset Register nor are they RoSPA inspected. The ground surface was only ever suitable for tennis, and was never installed as being to a standard suitable for a skate park.
The Youth Club to be asked if they wish to take any action with regards to the skate ramps or whether they want to Parish Council to have them removed if they are becoming dangerous.

55/17 Items for the Next Agenda

Precept; Maintenance Contract Update and Allowing Dog Access.to the Playing Fields.

56/17 Public Participation

The Council received complements for having a good grasp of the planning applications and requested that the W.D.D.C. application numbers to be included within the minutes.

57/17 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 21st November 2017 at 7:00 pm

Meeting closed at 8:55 pm