

Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council
held on 21st November 2017 at the Stratton Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, A Wheeler, P Hallett, C/Cllr J Hayes, D/Cllr T Yarker, PCSO S Pilcher and four members of the public.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all attendees. The meeting commenced with a minute silence in respect for Councillor Hannah Richardson. Messages of condolences were received from the DAPTC, Maiden Newton and Frampton Parish Councils.

Apologies

D/Cllr F Horsington.

58/17 Public Participation

Speed of traffic, recognising that no further progress can be made in officially reducing the speed limit, a request for the council to consider erecting 20mph advisory signs.

C/Cllr J Hayes gave her update:

The Secretary of State has announced that he is minded, subject to parliamentary approval, to implement the proposals to restructure local government in Dorset

There are County Council budget pressures on the adult and children services, with savings required of £9m and £14m respectively. Currently there's a recruitment campaign for foster carers.

Some good news, there's £600k extra for public health to be used for focusing on the mobility of the elderly and there is an underspend in the Dorset Waste Partnership.

D/Cllr T Yarker gave an update from District Council:

The Dorset Rural Committee have recruited an interim chief executive.

The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act coming in April 2018, requires Councils to focus on the prevention of homelessness and relieve homelessness with extended entitlements to rehousing to a wider group of single homeless people. It is expected to increase the workload by 30-50%.

59/17 Code of Conduct/ Declaration of Interest

General declaration by the council, as all the councillors reside in the village and consequently have an interest in the setting of the precept.

60/17 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council held on 19th September

The Chairman asked if there were any reasons why the minutes of the meeting of 19th September 2017 should not be signed as a true record. All Councillors agreed the minutes and the Chairman duly signed and dated the minutes.

61/17 Allowing Dog Access to the Recreational Fields

Allowing dog access to the recreational fields was discussed a year ago and it was agreed to review the situation in 2017.

The Council considered the new order "The West Dorset Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2017" in regards to the recreational areas within Stratton. The Council discussed whether to continue with the current practice of allowing dogs off the lead to use the Village Green and the Recreational Field. As the Council have not received any official complaints, the Council unanimously agreed to continue allowing dogs off the lead to use the Village Green and the Recreational Field.

It was noted that many non-residents use the recreational field to exercise their dogs.

62/17 Speed of Traffic Update

The traffic working group have met with Highways and the Police to discuss ideas to reduce traffic speed through the village. There are various options in the plan however these will not be published in advance.

PCSO Sarah Pilcher offered to carry out speed checks at any specific days and times.

A new speed survey to be booked for the end of the financial year after some of the speed reduction plans have been implemented.

63/17 Bus Services

The Maiden Newton to Dorchester Ring and Ride Tuesday and Thursday service has been extended as long as demand covers the costs of running this service. Feedback received indicated that sufficient profit was achieved during October to help keep the service running over the winter months.

Details of the Ring and Ride Tuesday and Thursday service and the Wednesday DCT Service are given in the December/January edition of the Chalk Stream magazine.

64/17 General Maintenance

a) Update on the hedges over-hanging the footway at Sawyers Lane

The owner of the Old Village Hall has cut back their hedges and the pathway is clear.

b) Review Maintenance List

The list of actions was reviewed, the recreational field drainage ditches have been 60% completed and the condition of the Almshouses bus shelter will hopefully be checked by the end of year.

c) Maintenance Contract Update

The maintenance contract has been split into two, one for the Village Green and the other for the Recreational field. This would allow for smaller contractors to participate if the Council agreed to go follow the tendering process.

The current system of having two separate contractors since July 2017 has been working well, with many compliments received on the standard of the Village Green since the current contractor started in July 2017, however, this extra quality does come at a cost.

The Chairman put forward two options for the council to consider:

- Does the Council want to go through the tendering process and award contracts?
- Or offer the work to known contractors on an annual contract at an agreed cost?

CLlr Cheryl Hobbs proposed that the council continue with the two current contractors on a rolling year basis. This proposal was unanimously approved by the Council.

65/17 Parish Council Website Update

The basics of the new website has been rebuilt from another website, it is to be modified to make it Stratton specific and the historical data to be uploaded. The parish clerk is gaining experience of the design and implementation of the website, in particular the backups. The website will be introduced as soon as it is fully working, though no date has been set. The new internet name will be www.strattondorsetpc.org.uk

66/17 Parish Plan - Action Review

A response has been received from the Village Hall Management Committee regarding the condition of the exterior decoration. Currently the committee have a number of external and interior improvement projects to focus on that have more priority.

There are no items within the Parish Plan that requires funding during 2018/19.

67/17 Christmas Tree and Carol Arrangements

Christmas Tree - a private group in the village are willing to erect a tree on the Village Green. The Village Hall committee have agreed to provide electrical power for the tree lights. It's envisaged that the tree lights will be switched on at the village carols on the Friday 15th December. The order of carols to be agreed with the Durnovaria Silver Band.

68/17 Highways

Update on the hedges and trees at the West end of the village that are under the control of Highways - Highways have been requested to trim back the hedges and trees

69/17 Planning Matters

WD/D/17/002470 - No.1 Manor Close - No comments or objections from the Council

WD/D/17/002318 - Manor Farm, Grimstone - No comments or objections from the Council

70/17 Correspondence

A letter of thanks received from the Youth Club for the grant.

An email from the Dairy regarding the dog mess on the footpaths, however this is outside the Council remit. Although all footpath users are encouraged to clean up after their animals.

71/17 Finance

a) Discretionary Grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

The Council has awarded the following grants: -

Stratton Children's Christmas Party £120.00

Stratton Youth Club £120.00

Chalk Stream £60.00

Stratton (Dorset) Allotment Society £50.00

Frampton Rainbows £50.00

Stratton Coffee Club £25.00

Royal British Legion £20.00

All the cheques have been issued except for the Children's Christmas Party.

b) Income and Expenditure

Accounts to 21st November 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	8,072.20	34,486.61	837.94	280.47	43,116.28
Receipts	3,380.00	920.00	0.00	0.00	4,300.00
Payments	786.05	620.00	0.00	0.00	1,406.05
Balance c/f	10,666.15	34,786.61	837.94	280.47	46,010.23

PAYMENTS IN

Precept - WDDC - Second Tranche 4,300.00

TOTAL £ 4,300.00

PAYMENTS OUT

Kevin Kirk (Village Green) Invoice 25 90.00
Kevin Kirk (Village Green Hedges) Invoice 26 120.00
Kevin Kirk (Village Green) Invoice 27 90.00
DAPTC - New Clerks Course 35.00
Clerk's Salary 346.05
Kevin Kirk (Village Green) Invoice 28 90.00
Section 137 Grant - Stratton Youth Club 120.00
Section 137 Grant - Chalk Stream 60.00
Section 137 Grant - Royal British Legion 20.00
Section 137 Grant - Allotment Society 50.00
Section 137 Grant - Coffee Club 25.00
DAPTC - Clerks Seminar 60.00
Section 137 Grant - 1st Frampton Rainbows 50.00
Kevin Kirk (Village Green) Invoice 29 90.00
Kevin Kirk (Rec Field Ditch Clearance) Invoice 30 140.00
DAPTC - Publication 20.00

TOTAL £ 1,406.05

c) Budget Monitoring

Current expenditure and income was discussed and compared against budget targets. Several areas of higher than expected expenditure was noted, these areas will be looked at the end of the financial year in case virement of budgets needs to occur. Overall budget targets were, however, in line with the set budget.

d) Precept 2018/19

The Chairman outlined the proposed budget for 2018/2019, in particular highlighting the additional expenditure required for the maintenance of the Village Green. Several items were discussed by Councillors before agreeing the final budget position.

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL - ESTIMATES 2018/2019

RECEIPTS	Parish				Village Green				Parish Plan			
	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precept	4,800	4,990	5,780	5,700	1,650	1,650	1,820	3,400	350	500	500	0
Bank Interest					280	280	180	200				
Repay - Playground Equipment											500	500
Total Receipts	4,800	4,990	5,780	5,700	1,930	1,930	2,000	3,600	350	500	1,000	500
PAYMENTS												
General Maintenance	500	550	550	530			200	200				
Maintenance of Green/Playing Field					1,800	1,800	1,600	1,400				
Village Green - only								1,800				
Playground Inspection	60	120	100	100								
DAPTC	210	220	230	230								
Insurance	500	500	520	540	130	130	200	200				
Donations - Section 137	40	420	420	450								
Unallocated Budget (Christmas/1918 memorial)	500	500	500	500								
Parish Plan Initiatives									350	500	500	300
New Services - Ex DCC/WDDC			800	400								
Clearing of Dog Bin		120	80	100								
Dog Fouling Signs/Bags	50	40	40	50								
Stratton Village Hall - Hire	150	140	150	160								
Audit Commission	50		200	40								
Clerk's Salary	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500								
Clerk's Expenses + Computer Reserve	350	350	350	320								
Church Clock		210		220								
Training/Meeting Fees	300	100	120	200								
Stratton Website				300								
Broadband Maintenance & Telephone	120	120	120	60								
Total Payments	4,430	4,990	5,780	5,700	1,930	1,930	2,000	3,600	350	500	500	300
Balance	370	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	200

An increase of £1,000 was unanimously agreed by the Council, with the 2018/19 Precept being set at £9,600.

72/17 Items for the Next Agenda

Defibrillator and the 1918 Centenary Working Group

73/17 Public Participation

The Stratton (Dorset) Allotment Society gave their thanks for the grant received from the Council. At their AGM there was some concern regarding dog signage so as not to encourage dogs onto the allotments.

Road gutter and gullies clearance – the Parish Clerk has requested for this work to be done.

There have been instances of parking on blind corners, drivers are reminded to be considerate when parking their vehicles.

74/17 Date of the next meeting

Tuesday 16th January 2017 at 7:00 pm

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm