

# Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
held on 15th May 2018 at the Stratton Village Hall

## **Present**

Cllrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, A Wheeler, P Hallett, D/Cllrs T Yarker & F Horsington, and 6 members of the public.

## **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were accepted unanimously by the Council as a true record.

## **Matters Arising**

No matters were arising from the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

## **Chairman's Report for 2017/2018**

The Parish Council has had a busy year, but it has again been a sad year. We started the year with five Councillors and have finished with four, this the result of the unfortunate death of Councillor Hannah Richardson in a road accident in October 2017. Her passing has been greatly felt by her family and by many different parts of the Community. For the Parish Council her work on helping to maintain and look at different possibilities together with other local Parish Councils for a revised public bus service was invaluable, she has been sadly missed. With no new Councillors stepping forward to help fill the gaps, it means that the Parish Council is not able to cover matters as promptly as we want to and delays can occur. It is a great shame that residents in the Parish want the best but are not prepared to come forward and offer a few hours of their time to help achieve things which reflect on all our lives and the surroundings in which we live. Having said that we did welcome Christopher Boulton, in June, as our new Parish Clerk. Hopefully, Chris has now settled into his post and is coping with all our various demands. I know all Councillors are grateful for the assistance, research and advice he has provided us. So, three vacancies to fill, and we hope that members of the public will step forward in the final year of this Council to help ensure that we continue to operate for the benefit of the residents of the Parish.

It has been very pleasing to see the vast strides made by the Allotment Society. Access to the new allotments only occurred on the 1 April 2017, but its members have already produced a wide range of produce, and their work has been the talking point of many. Hopefully, this coming year will allow even more success for the Society members. Last year I mentioned a long list of activities carried out by the Parish Council, that list has not diminished, and indeed several new activities have come along with which we have been associated. One, being the May ceremony on the Village Green, where we were invited by family members to help inaugurate the commemorative stone to the Wrackleford Auxiliary Unit, G.H.Q. 203 Reserve Battalion. The inauguration was attended by many in the Parish, and was led by Mr Angus Campbell, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, and Major General Tony Jeapes. We hope the Parish did the families of the Wrackleford members proud.

We continue to act as the access point for many residents of the Parish with the higher levels of local government in Dorset and other service providers. We spend considerable time and effort in trying to find the correct person in those authorities to try and resolve problems. We cannot always get what we want, but by working positively, we do put over our views. That can be done by us alone or working as a group of Parish Councils. Most of this work goes on unseen, although hopefully of benefit to the individual involved.

I will not say much on re-organisation of local government in Dorset, as that is only just coming about with clear conclusions, which should be finalised over the coming year and with initial elections in 2019 for a single tier Council replacing the County Council and W.D.D.C. and other District Councils. We have however, continued working and talking to neighbouring Parishes and the D.A.P.T.C, to see where and in what way we can work together or share services. That position and the need to share will become much clearer once the new Council is created.

Work on the Parish Council Web site and ensuring we are compliant under the Transparency Regulations for Smaller Authorities, had a hiatus in mid-year, when the Server unit on which the Parish Web site operated, disappeared. This caused numerous problems and meant that a complete rebuild was required. A tremendous amount of work was required, which could not always be dealt with as quickly as we wanted. But, through mainly the efforts of Councillor Cheryl Hobbs and Chris Boulton (Parish Clerk) a new site was achieved and finally re-introduced in early January 2018. Further work has been made to refine, expand or adjust slightly the layout of various pages and access points to information.

Various items of maintenance work have been done on Parish assets, with most of this work having been done by Councillors. I thank Councillor Peter Hallett, especially for dealing with much of this. Priority items requiring work in the coming year have already been noted.

Major changes occurred during the year with the Contractor holding the Maintenance contract for Ground and Hedge work terminating the contract. This caused considerable work to find, interview, agree and put in place new contractors. It was decided by the Parish Council to split the old contract into two parts. As such, improvements have been achieved in the presentation of the Village Green and hedges surrounding it. While work on grass cutting on the Playing Field has remained at a high standard. This did result however, in the cost being higher than the original budget provision. Although the work undertaken did cover the whole of the contract remit. Other budget savings covered the higher cost. The Parish Council did receive compliments from numerous Villagers on the condition of the Village Green and Playing Field.

The Parish Council continued its dialogue with the Highways Authority and the Police over the past year in the trying to get drivers to adhere to the Village speed limit. Several initiatives were undertaken including getting the Highways Authority to install road markings at various points through the Village. A recent speed survey confirmed that speeds have reduced, although we will continue to monitor and take action if required.

It was with the thanks of the Parish Council that a private group organised a 'real' Christmas tree on the Village Green, and the annual Carol service was held with the Durnovaria Band involved. Thanks, are also given to Judy Adams for carrying out the planting and caring for the Village entrance tubs.

My final thanks go to all Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their dedication and hard work over the past year and ensuring that many of the matters we have attempted have succeeded for the benefit of the Parish.

## Financial Report for 2017/2018

The details of the annual income and expenditure statements were presented to the meeting.

### **Summary Receipts and Payments Account 2017-2018**

2016-2017		2017-2018
£	RECEIPTS	£
7,045.00	Precept	8,553.00
273.60	Interest	186.46
845.00	Other Receipts/Grants	7,068.00
8,013.01	Play Area - Grants/Donations	300.00
3,882.89	VAT Reimbursement	2,951.85
20,059.50	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>19,059.31</u></b>
£	PAYMENTS	£
4,213.90	General Administration	4,650.71
330.00	Sect. 137 Payments	520.00
2,149.62	Village Green & Playing Field	2,622.20
11,947.30	Play Area - Equipment	0.00
3,021.85	VAT on Payments	471.57
21,662.67	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b><u>8,264.48</u></b>
-1,603.17	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS</b>	<b>10,794.83</b>
<b>BALANCES HELD</b>		
		£
Balance brought forward 1 April 2017		39,199.70
Net Receipts/Payments for 2017/2018		10,794.83
Balance carried forward 31 March 2018		49,994.53

### **Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2018**

<u>2016 - 2017</u>	<u>Notes</u>		<u>2017 - 2018</u>
£		<b>Long Term Assets</b>	£
51,220.09	a	Land, Bus Shelters & Seats	52,757.69
		<b>Current Assets</b>	
39,199.70	b	Cash at bank	49,994.53
90,419.79		<b>Total Assets</b>	102,752.22
		<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
0.00		None	0.00
90,419.79		<b>Net Assets</b>	102,752.22
		Represented by:	
34,403.80	c	Earmarked reserves	36,726.13
4,795.90		General Fund balance	13,268.40
<b>39,199.70</b>		<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>49,994.53</b>

## Supporting statement to the Balance Sheet 2017 – 2018

<b>a</b>	<b>Assets Held</b>	<b>£</b>	
	Freehold Land	1.00	
	<i>Not saleable as held under conditions of Section 52 (1987) planning permission</i>		
	Bus shelters	12,483.60	
	Seats & Picnic Table (in younger children play area)	2,542.49	
	Play Area equipment (Younger Children)	15,293.45	
	Play Area equipment (Adventure)	20,394.00	
	Lap-Top computer and Accessories	2,043.15	
	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>52,757.69</u></b>	
	<i>The above figures are values for insurance purposes only.</i>		
<b>b</b>	<b>Cash at bank</b>		
	National Savings 137934816	41,898.14	
	Lloyds Bank plc 00261286	8,591.44	
	Less unrepresented cheques	-495.05	
	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>49,994.53</u></b>	
<b>c</b>	<b>Earmarked reserves</b>		
	<i>Capital in the Village Green and Playing Field Maintenance Account may only be spent in accordance with the conditions of the Section 52 (1987) planning permission.</i>		
	Village Green and Playing Field Maintenance Account	34,930.12	
	Parish Plan Account	1,796.01	
	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>36,726.13</u></b>	
<b>d</b>	<b>Additional Information - Section 137 Payments</b>		
	Payee	Nature of Payment	£
	Chalk Stream	Donation	60.00
	Stratton Youth Club	Donation	120.00
	Stratton Children's Party	Donation	120.00
	Coffee Club	Donation	25.00
	Royal British Legion	Donation	20.00
	Allotment Society	Donation	50.00
	1st Frampton Rainbows	Donation	50.00
	Mosaic	Donation	50.00
	Dorset Youth Association	Donation	50.00
	St John's Ambulance	Cancellation	-25.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b><u>520.00</u></b>

## Bank Reconciliation 2017/18

	£
Cash Assets as stated in accounts as at 31 March 2018	49,994.53
Cash Assets held as at 31 March 2018:	
Lloyds Bank Plc - Current Account No. 00261266	8,591.44
Less un-presented cheques	
No. 953	49.00
No. 954	346.05
No. 955	50.00
No. 956	50.00
	-495.05
	<u>8,096.39</u>
National Savings - Account No. 137934816	41,898.14
Total Cash Assets held:	<u>49,994.53</u>

### **Questions from the Public**

Asset Depreciation – the items shown in the balance sheet are the insurance values, as they are insured on a “new for old” basis, therefore protecting the value of the asset.

### **Date of next Annual Parish Meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (14 days after election day)

Meeting closed at 7.25 pm