

## Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council held on 15th January 2019  
at the Stratton Village Hall

### **Present**

Cllrs A Aylott, G Hollinshead, A. Wheeler, D/Cllr T Yarker, D/Cllr F Horsington and one member of the public.

### **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Ordinary Meeting.

### **Apologies**

Cllr C Hobbs, Cllr P Hallett, C/Cllr J Hayes and Clerk Mr C Boulton.

### **63/18 Public Participation**

#### West Dorset District Council/New County Authority Update

D/Cllr F Horsington confirmed that under the Constitution of the new authority, that there was no redress for Parish Councils over Planning decisions. This matter was being questioned.

D/Cllr T Yarker confirmed that a budget was being resolved and is to be put to the Shadow Executive group next month. Strategic Directors are now appointed and starting to take up post. The previous position of W.D.D.C releasing small capital assets to Town or Parish Councils has been taken back.

#### Public Input

No matters raised.

### **64/18 Code of Conduct/ Declaration of Interest**

Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to declare 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. There were no declarations.

### **65/18 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council**

Councillors agreed the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th November 2018.

### **66/18 Finance**

A) Income and Expenditure

Details of income received and expenditure made since the previous meeting was circulated:

#### **Accounts to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

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

<b>Account</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>V/Green</b>	<b>Parish Plan</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance b/f	15,309.32	36,022.99	2,296.01	375.54	53,252.78
Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments	1,389.88	2,028.31	0.00	286.41	3,704.60
Balance c/f	13,919.44	33,994.68	2,296.01	661.95	49,548.18

**Receipts** Nil

**Payments**

Parish

1 <sup>st</sup> Charminster Guides – Sec 137 Grant	50.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Charminster Brownies – Sec 137 Grant	50.00
Stratton Allotment Society – Sec 137 Grant	125.00
Children’s Christmas Party – Sec 137 Grant	150.00
BP Twinning Association – Sec 137 Grant	50.00
Royal British Legion – Sec 137 Grant	25.00
Stratton Youth Club – Sec 137 Grant	150.00
Reprint - Parish Map (PG)	91.99
Wreath Holder – Screws/Brackets	6.98
Durnovaria Silver Band – Carol Event	150.00
Parish Clerk – Expenses	26.48
Parish Clerk Salary – Oct/Dec Quarter	370.30
Stratton Village Hall – Room Hire (3 meetings)	50.87
Defibrillator Group - Awareness Grant (PG)	100.00

Village Green

Village Green Maintenance (November)	210.00
Paint – Maintenance	8.25
DCC Ground Maintenance – Playing Field	1,444.13
Village Green Maintenance (December)	210.00
Village Green Maintenance (January)	210.00
Village Green - Planting New Trees	225.60

Total 3,704.60

**B) Budget Monitoring**

The ongoing budget monitoring position for the current financial year was reviewed and accepted.

C) Precept for 2019/20. W.D.D.C Rates team has confirmed receipt of the Parish Precept form for the 2019/20 Financial Year.

**67/18 Highways**

A) Grimstone A37 – traffic speed

Additional road markings. To check with Dorset Highways as to when the additional road markings are to be done.

B) Ash Hill - Blocked gully. Confirmed that the blocked gully at Ash Hill has been cleared by Dorset Highways.

C) Public Footpath Sign – Sawyers Lane. Confirmed that Dorset Highways has been chased, although no action at present.

**68/18 Planning**

An update on the following planning notice has been received:

WD/D/18/001326 - Higher Wrackelford Farm - Change of use – Approved 22 November 2018

**69/18 General Maintenance**

## A) Current maintenance issues

The Alms Houses Bus shelter – materials – still awaited.  
Steps to Village Green from Village Hall – still awaited.

## B) Village Green Trees

Two replacement trees have now been planted. Details of future care has been received from the Contractor. It was felt helpful, that a copy of the future care details be passed to local residents so that they could if they wanted assist in the future care of the new trees.

## C) Trees by the Playing Field

Chairman confirmed that as promised at the previous meeting a site visit by three Councillors had taken place, and the problems as outlined by the residents viewed from their gardens. A decision was taken after the site visit to get a full professional tree survey of the site, this was vital to check on the condition and safety of trees in that area. The survey report should be received by the end of January. Councillors will then be able to see what action, if any, is required. There will be a cost of £300 for the survey and report.

## D) Dog Fouling and Waste Bin by the Almshouses

Clerk has researched the cost of dog bag dispensers. Cost will be £93 plus vat. After discussion, agreed that a new dog bag dispenser be purchased.  
Movement of the existing waste bin to the other side of the Bus shelter still awaited.

## E) Mill Lane

Clerk has confirmed that a search to find out who the landowner was could not be achieved via the new BT post erected in Mill Lane. The only remaining option was to pay for a formal search via the Land Registry. This would involve a fee. Discussion held, and in view of potential works affecting the Parish Council on trees at the Playing Field, it was agreed to leave the matter of Mill Lane as it was and take no further action.

**70/18 Correspondence**

A) Various letters have been received giving thanks for Section 137 Grants made.

B) Comment had been made to Cllr Hollinshead by a resident, that a corner of the playing field was flooding. Chairman confirmed that the playing field is a Flood Alleviation area as designated by the Environment Agency, as such, it is expected to flood in times of high rainfall. So, the current flooding was a natural and expected event.

C) Confirmed that a group of Colleagues of the late Cllr. Hannah Richardson had approached the Parish Council with a request to present something in Hannah's memory. Councillors discussed this kind offer and felt that a large picnic style table would be appropriate. A discussion took place on where such a table was best suited. After debate, it was decided that it should be placed on the playing field close the play equipment that Hannah had been so closely involved with. A good quality table was felt desirable and Councillors agreed that a contribution from the Planning Gain monies could be used to ensure the best purchase. This idea to be passed back to the Colleagues of Hannah to see if they agreeable with this suggestion.

**71/18 Christmas Carol Event (2018)**

Cllr. Wheeler gave a verbal report on the Christmas Carol event. Some 60 odd people attended, with mulled wine and mince pies being served at the interval. Thanks to Rod and Janette Lamont at the Saxon Arms for all their help, and in addition providing hot chocolate for the Band. Overall it was felt that the event was starting to become tired and losing its direction. Perhaps the event

needed to be linked with another event. It would be up to the next Parish Council to decide whether the event took place at Christmas 2019.

### **72/18 Planning Gain Wishlist**

A) 'Drive Safely through our Village' signs

Quotations had now been received by the Clerk, and the options were discussed. After debate, it was decided that this matter should be left at present and to take no further action. It was felt that adequate actions had already taken place on road safety and curtailing speed.

B) Children's Christmas Party support

It has been confirmed that the Christmas Party received sufficient funding and that there was no need for any additional financial support from the Parish Council.

### **73/18 Elections – May 2019**

Clerk confirmed that official publicity and recruiting posters had been received regarding the May 2019 Parish Council elections. He also confirmed that nomination forms were held and available.

### **74/18 New Computer**

Discussion held on the need to purchase a new computer for Parish Council business. Confirmed that the current lap-top was some 6/7 years old, was very slow and not appropriate to carry out the current requirements of the Parish Council. Agreement reached that a purchase should be made of an appropriate quality computer. Chairman confirmed that previous years surpluses had notionally held an amount set aside to purchase a new computer, as such it could be said that the cost was being spread over several years. Agreed that a new computer be purchased with the necessary software.

### **75/18 Items for the next Agenda**

Tree Report – Playing Field, Computer, Hannah Richardson's bench, Waste bin/dog bag dispenser.

### **76/18 Public Participation**

Comment made that the Parish Council should as far as possible try to ensure that an election was held in May 2019. Especially as the last Parish election in Stratton was in the year 1999. Effort needed to try and dispel the complexity many people feel in the process of standing to be a Parish Councillor, and the mystique of how Parish Councils operate. All Councillors agreed with these comments and would try to explain or ease the process.

### **Date of the next Meeting**

Ordinary Meeting – 19th March 2019 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm