

## Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council  
held on 17th July 2018 at the Stratton Village Hall

### Present

Cllrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, A Wheeler, C/Cllr J Hayes, D/Cllrs T Yarker & F Horsington, and three members of the public

### Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Ordinary Meeting

### Apologies

Cllr P Hallett

### 20/18 Public Participation

#### Dorset County Council Update

C/Cllr J Hayes gave an update on the new Council structures, the budget pressure on adult and children care services and the recruitment of foster carers.

#### West Dorset District Council Update

D/Cllr T Yarker gave an update on the transition from District Council to the new Council structure, the Local Plan schedule of roadshows and the Local Boundary Review.

#### Public Input

There was no public input.

### 21/18 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. There were no declarations.

### 22/18 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council

All Councillors unanimously agreed the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th May and the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 19th June

### 23/18 Finance

#### **a Income and Expenditure**

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

#### **Accounts to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

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

| Account     | Parish    | V/Green   | Parish Plan | VAT    | Balance   |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Balance b/f | 14,875.12 | 36,032.99 | 2,296.01    | 580.89 | 52,623.23 |
| Receipts    | 0.00      | 0.00      | 0.00        | 0.00   | 0.00      |
| Payments    | 852.79    | 420.00    | 0.00        | 48.13  | 1,320.92  |
| Balance c/f | 14,022.33 | 35,612.99 | 2,296.01    | 629.02 | 51,302.31 |

#### **PAYMENTS OUT**

|                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| <u>Parish</u>             |        |
| DAPTC Annual Subscription | 216.82 |
| DAPTC Training - GDPR     | 25.00  |
| Notice Boards (PG)        | 180.00 |
| Parish Clerk Salary       | 370.30 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Plants                                 | 29.00      |
| RoSPA Annual Inspection                | 79.80      |
| <u>Village Green</u>                   |            |
| Village Green Maintenance (May & June) | 420.00     |
| <u>Parish Plan</u>                     |            |
|  | 0.00       |
| TOTAL                                  | £ 1,320.92 |

### **b Budget Monitoring**

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

### **c Section 137 Grants**

Cllr Hobbs will put out an announcement regarding the awarding of grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The closing date for applications is the 30th September 2018.

## **24/18 Highways**

### **a Grimstone A37 - traffic speed**

The Parish Council raised concerns with Dorset Highways regarding the speed of traffic on the A37 through Grimstone and requested a re-assessment of any speed reduction measures.

Following a site survey, Dorset Highways have recommended and will implement the following:

- Northbound approach - yellow bar markings to be refreshed
- Southbound approach - two new "slow" markings each combined with three yellow bar markings
- Southbound approach - one sign showing 30 roundel and camera sign

### **b Stratton, Dorchester Road - hedge maintenance**

The Parish Clerk had followed up with the Community Highways Officer on the progress of hedge maintenance along the west end of Dorchester Road, a limited cutback has now happened.

### **c Stratton, Dorchester Road - road closure**

Following involvement by Parish Councillors the full road closure originally scheduled for the 2nd July had been revised for a partial road closure with temporary traffic lights to start on the 9<sup>th</sup> July. Alternative parking arrangements for residents directly affected by the works had been circulated. The Council were assured that the works would be completed by the end of the month.

Surface drainage - SSE had resurfaced over one of the drain covers by 72 Dorchester Road, they were apologetic but will not do anything about it. Parish Clerk to raise a complaint with Dorset Highways.

## **25/18 Planning**

The following planning notices have been received:

WD/D/18/001196 - Replacement of existing cattle housing with a new covered yard for cattle housing, at Stratton Dairy, Stratton Bypass, Stratton, Dorchester, DT2 9RS

WD/D/18/001326 - Change of use from agricultural to mixed use (agricultural and commercial), at Higher Wrackelford Farm, A37 from end dual carriageway, Higher Wrackelford Farm, Wrackelford, Dorchester, DT2 9SN

Councillors are to respond with comments via the Parish Clerk

## **26/18 General Maintenance**

### **a Current maintenance issues**

Progress to date since last meeting:

- The Alms Houses bus shelter - materials ordered by Cllr Hallett
- The Ash Hill notice board - replaced with the spare notice board
- The Church bus shelter - the two notice boards were replaced. A half size notice board salvaged from the old boards has been put up in the bus shelter by the Alms Houses.
- Steps to the Village Green from the Village Hall - scheduled to be done.

- The old wooden bench at the west end of the village green has deteriorated, however maybe repairable. Cllr Hallett to look at.

The circular swing in the recreational field may have been vandalised, repairs have been carried out.

The village green looks very good however the last cut was very short (for the village fayre). Suggestion for future cuts not to be so short to allow the grass to recover after the current hot weather.

#### **b RoSPA Inspection**

The RoSPA inspection of the children's play area highlighted some very minor maintenance issues. These will be carried out.

#### **27/18 Correspondence**

An email received from a resident whose property overlooks the Village Green has raised concerns over a tree outside their house, regarding obscuring light and possible damage.

This tree is a Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betulus*), a native tree to the south of England, which can grow to a maximum height of 30m and can live up to 300 years.

The trees on the Village Green were planted prior to the Saxon Field development building work. Following the Council's Tree Policy there does not seem to be any sound reason to remove the tree, however further advice from the WDDC tree advisor will be sought before any final decision is made. A check will be made to see if the tree is listed on the tree preservation list.

Draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Dorset Council - these outline the new electoral boundaries, the Parish Councils of Stratton, Bradford Peverell, Frampton, Charminster and Stinsford would make up the new Ward of Charminster St Mary's, covered by one County Councillor. The Parish Council are satisfied with this recommendation.

#### **28/18 Christmas Carol Event (2018)**

The band has been booked and a private group has sufficient funds for a real Christmas tree.

#### **29/18 1918 Centenary**

##### **a Memorial**

Wrackleford Estate have confirmed their support for a wreath holder to be installed alongside the War Memorial. The Parish Council have been successful in their request for a grant of £250 from the WDDC Chairman's Centenary Fund.

Dorchester Town Council have offered a suitable railing at a very reasonable price. Councillors unanimously agreed with the purchase. Informal enquiries have been made with metal workers regarding modifications. It's proposed that the installation could be done in-house. Various suggestions for the memorial plaque were discussed without any final agreement.

##### **b Beacon**

Wrackleford Estate gave their support for the beacon. The Parish Council will need to discuss requirements, parking arrangements, transport etc with Wrackleford Estate. A meeting to be arranged shortly.

#### **30/18 Planning Gain Wishlist**

An update on the initial possible ideas discussed at the previous meeting and new suggestions:

##### IDEAS

Maintenance of the village map -

- As expected Dorset County Council cannot find the original master copy, they had previously searched for them in 2013.
- Alternative solutions to be looked at.

##### OUTCOME

No decisions have been made.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Traffic Speed Initiatives - "Drive Safely" stickers for wheelie bins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly completed the distribution</li> <li>• Feedback has been generally positive, with only two refusals</li> <li>• Suggestion for "Drive safely through our village" signs, this to be checked with the Community Highways Officer</li> </ul> | <p>Request quote from Dorset Highways for the signs.</p> |
| <p>Allotments - The allotment land is rented from Wrackelford Farms under a 10-year lease. Cllr Hobbs put forward a suggestion as to whether the land could be purchased. Cllr Hallett explained that the land is probably held within a Trust and would not be available for sale. He would try to get confirmation of this fact.</p>                                | <p>To be reviewed</p>                                    |
| <p>Christmas meal for the over 70s.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept was discussed with the Coffee Shop organisers</li> <li>• The Saxon Arms are willing to help with the cooking</li> <li>• To find out how many over 70s live in the parish</li> </ul>  | <p>The concept is do-able and to be progressed.</p>      |
| <p>Section 137 - to allocate £150 into the Section 137 budget for 2018 only.</p>  | <p>Unanimously agreed by Councillors</p>                 |
| <p>Replacement computer - to allocate £300 towards a replacement</p>  | <p>Unanimously agreed by Councillors.</p>                |
| <p>Village maintenance - Cllr Hallett would like the village maintenance to be kept up to date and requested additional funds to support this. £500 has been allocated to supplement existing budgets.</p>  | <p>See Minute 32/18 Public Feedback</p>                  |
| <p>Defibrillator - No details of progress received from the private group.</p>  | <p>Unanimously agreed by Councillors</p>                 |
| <p></p>   | <p>Position remains as previous</p>                      |

### **31/18 Items for the next Agenda**

Christmas carol event, Planning Gain Wishlist, Dog fouling, Beacon and Memorial

### **32/18 Public Participation**

Feedback from the public after the meeting:

Computer - The "wish list" is a very controversial subject within the parish and questioned if whether a replacement computer for the Council is good use of the Planning Gain monies. The Chairman gave justification for the replacement; but agreed that the Council will look at alternative funding first.

Memorial Plaque Wording - 'Parish' should be used instead of 'People'

Parish trees - Following an enquiry regarding annual survey of trees within the parish, Wrackelford Estate offered to have the parish trees included within their annual inspection. Parish Council to be advised if there is a cost involved before any decision is made.

Beacon - the beacons are scheduled to be lit at 7pm on the Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Traffic calming measures - enquiry if there is any proven evidence that these measures work. The Chairman passed on his knowledge working with Highways, typically new signage produces an initial 25% reduction within the first two weeks which then reduces over time to approximate 10% reduction.

Flower Planters - A comment was made on how attractive the flower planters looked at the village entrances.

### **Date of the next Meetings**

Ordinary Meeting - 18th September 2018 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm