

Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council
held on 20th November 2018 at the Stratton Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, P Hallett, G Hollinshead, A Wheeler, D/Cllr T Yarker, D/Cllr F Horsington and six members of the public

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Ordinary Meeting

Apologies

C/Cllr J Hayes

49/18 Public Participation

West Dorset District Council/New County Authority Update

D/Cllr T Yarker and D/Cllr F Horsington gave an update on:

- Local government reorganisation, Shadow Executive looking at initial budget preparation; a new logo has been approved; still looking at how best to combine services.
- The new election wards have been finalised.
- W.D.D.C. had been preparing to pass some assets onto Parish Councils. New Shadow Executive have overruled this and stopped any transfers.
- Chairman confirmed as expressed at the recent DAPTC AGM that Parish Councils need to be asking County and District Councillors questions and to ensure that PC's are part of the process of how future services are organised. D/Cllrs T Yarker and F.Horsington both agreed of the need for PC's to be as proactive as possible.

Public Input

No matters raised.

50/18 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.

51/18 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council

Councillors agreed the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th September 2018.

52/18 Finance

a Income and Expenditure

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

Accounts to 20th November 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	13,943.60	35,192.99	2,296.01	162.01	51,270.59
Receipts	2,900.00	1,900.00	0.00	0.06	4,800.06
Payments	1,534.28	1,070.00	0.00	213.59	2,817.87
Balance c/f	15,309.32	36,022.99	2,296.01	375.54	53,252.78

Payments In

Precept - 2 nd ~Tranche	4,800.00
VAT Adjustment 2017/18	0.06

Payments Out

Parish

Defibrillator (PG)	600.00
Memorial Plaque (Wreath Hanger)	114.00
Alterations to Railings (Wreath Hanger)	180.00
VAT Adjustment 2017/18	0.06
Paint (Wreath Hanger)	29.06
Parish Clerk salary	370.30
DAPTC Clerks Seminar	70.00
Dog Bags (Harrisons Packaging)	38.39
Parish Clerk Expenses (Website, Printer ink & paper, stamps)	216.06

Village Green

Village Green Maintenance (September & October)	420.00
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Tree Felling (AG Tree Services)	780.00
<u>Parish Plan</u>	0.00
TOTAL	2,817.87

b Budget Monitoring

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

c Section 137 Grants

- Report made by Grant Panel - eight applications received of which seven applications were allocated a grant, and one application not accepted.
- Grants allocated were Charminster Guides - £50.00, Charminster Brownies - £50.00, Stratton Allotment Society - £125.00, Stratton Children's Xmas Party-£150.00, Bradford Peverell Twinning Group - £50.00, Royal British Legion - £25.00, and Stratton Youth Club - £150.00.

Unanimous agreement by all Councillors to make payments as recommended. £450.00 from Parish Budget, and £150 from Planning Gain monies

53/18 Highways

a Grimstone A37 - traffic speed

Noted that the additional Road markings have not yet been painted.

b Ash Hill - blocked gully

A blocked gully at Ash Hill has been reported to Highway.

c Public Footpath Sign

The public footpath sign at the entrance to Sawyers Lane has not yet been permanently fixed and is only temporarily secured to the street sign. Clerk to remind Highways.

54/18 Planning

An update on the following planning notices have been received:

WD/D/18/001326 - Higher Wrackelford Farm - Change of use - still no decision

WD/D/18/002130 - 60 Dorchester Road - Weeping Ash Crown raise to 5.2m over the highway & remove dead limb (TPO tree works) - Approved 19 September 2018

WD/D/18/002372 - West of 72 Dorchester Road - Remove Multi Stem Ash under S198 (Reg 14) (TPO tree works) - Approved 16 October 2018

55/18 General Maintenance

a Current maintenance issues

Progress to date:

- The Alms Houses bus shelter - materials ordered, now to be collected.
- Steps to the Village Green from the Village Hall - work to be chased by Cllr Hallett and potential date agreed.

b Village Green Trees

Three trees now removed and roots ground out. After discussion Councillors agreed to replace with two trees during the current planting season. Agreement reached on variety of trees to be planted - two Rowan (Mountain Ash) one with red berries and one with white berries. Clerk to contact contractor to progress purchase of trees and planting.

c Dog Fouling and Waste Bin by the Almshouses

Contact made with DWP, who confirmed that no collection would be made if any container was situated under the Cattle Creep bridge. DWP could move the existing container, but it was felt that this could be done by Councillors. Agreed that new location would be on left hand side of Bus Shelter, although some trimming of the existing tree would be required. DWP have confirmed that they will empty the container, although no comment has been made on whether any charge would be made. Councillors agreed that at present no separate smaller bin will be required for general rubbish, although a Dog bag container will be required and erected on the side of the Bus Shelter. Clerk to arrange purchase of Dog bag container.

d Mill Lane

Councillor Hallett remarked that no hedge or verge work had been done on Mill Lane for up to 20 years and felt that something needed to be done. Chairman confirmed that contact had been made with Highways, who confirmed responsibility for the road, but accept no responsibility for the verge or hedge line. Also noted, that a local householder had recently cut back and tidied the hedge line, although confirming the hedge line was not on the deeds of their property. It was agreed that investigation be made as to who does own the verge and hedge line. If no owner found, PC to consider its position at a later meeting. Clerk to investigate.

56/18 Correspondence

Village Green Trees - letters of thanks have been received from residents on the Green following removal of the three trees.

Details received from W.D.D.C. that in future costs of Parish elections are to be met by the Parish Council. Previously only bye-elections were paid for. If a Parish election falls on the same date as any other election, then only 50% of the cost will be met by the Parish Council. This position has now been agreed by the Shadow Executive of the new Dorset Council and applies as from the 2019 May election.

Information received that the school bus going from Dorchester to Beaminster will accept fee-paying adults (if space is available). Full details of this service are now on the Parish web site.

Four letters/e-mails have been received from residents overlooking the playing field. Concern being expressed about the height and density of trees and the amount of undergrowth which is affecting rear gardens. After discussion and confirmation of the current Parish position with regards the playing field embankment. It was agreed that three Councillors would make a site visit and see the position from the playing field and from within the resident's garden areas. The position would be viewed in line with the Parish tree policy and see what, if anything, can be done to improve the current position. Councillors to carry out the site visit were Cllr A Aylott, Cllr C Hobbs and Cllr G Hollinshead. The site visit to be carried out shortly

57/18 Christmas Carol Event (2018)

Cllr A Wheeler gave a report on the arrangements made for this year's Carol event to be held at the Saxon Arms. Date is 14th December from 19:00 through to about 21:00. Refreshments are being provided by the Saxon Arms. The Dunovaria band will be present, with lights on the Xmas tree on the Village Green being switched on. The Village Hall has been booked in case there is rain.

58/18 1918 Centenary**a Memorial**

Chairman confirmed that the planned Wreath Hanger had been installed in advance of the 11th November Remembrance ceremony. Thanks' given to Cllr Hallett for work on erecting the hanger and carrying out a clean-up of the war memorial area. A number of positive 'thank you' comments have been received from residents on provision of the wreath hanger.

b Beacon

The National Beacon event was held at The Clumps, Grimstone Down on the evening of the 11th November. Arrangements had been agreed with Oliver Pope of Wrackleford Estates who arranged for the building of the beacon and provided transport up and down the hill. Some 40 plus people attended the event, and thanks have been received from a number of the attendees. Confirmed that the Parish have sent a thank you note to Oliver Pope and Thomas Pope for their assistance with the event.

59/18 Planning Gain Wishlist**a Village Map**

Following the previous meeting the Chairman had been successful in finding the original artwork for the Village Map. Discussions were held with a local printer who was able to scan and reprint the Map. Chairman showed the original art work to the Meeting and produced the new completed Village Map. Thanks' were passed to the Rod and Janette Lamont at the Saxon Arms who assisted with the loan of part of the map to be re-printed. The cost was considerably lower than previously expected at less than £100.

b 'Drive safely through our Village' signs

Still awaiting a quotation for signs and posts.

c Defibrillator

Councillors agreed to pay a further £100 to the Defibrillator group, this specifically to assist with the cost of awareness sessions which is shortly to be carried out by the group

d Bench Seats

Suggestion made as to whether large benches or seats could be provided on the playing field area. This idea to be explored for type and potential cost.

60/18 Precept for financial year - 2019/2020

Chairman confirmed that Councillors had agreed at the September meeting (Minute 38/18 d) to increase the Parish precept by the Rate of Inflation. For the year to October 2018 this was 2.4%. Meaning that the overall base budget for 2019/2020 would be £10,130. Discussions were held on the distribution of this amount over the three budget areas held by the Parish Council, bearing in mind likely costs on the activities under the Councils control. A balanced budget was eventually agreed. Clerk to ensure that new Rates precept figure of £9,830 to be passed to W.D.D.C Finance Section.

61/18 Items for the next Agenda

New trees for the Village Green, Trees by the Playing Field, Dog Fouling & Waste bins, Mill Lane tidy up.

62/18 Public Participation

The residents from Church View each give information on the problems that they individually faced and concerns over the current position of trees and undergrowth on the playing field embankment and how that affected their properties.

Defibrillator - The Heart of our Community Secretary gave thanks to the Parish Council for their additional donation to help the commencement of CPR awareness sessions.

Allotment Society - Chairman of the Allotment Society gave thanks for the Section 137 grant from the Parish Council.

Date of the next Meetings

Ordinary Meeting – Tuesday 15th January 2019 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm