

## STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council held on 16th July 2019  
at the Stratton Village Hall

### Present

Cllrs A Aylott, C. Hobbs, A. Wheeler, D Cllr D. Taylor and one member of the public.

### Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council.

### Apologies

Parish Clerk Mr C Boulton.

### 18/19 Public Participation

D Cllr D. Taylor informed Councillors that a settling in process was still going on within the Dorset Council as new processes were put in place. There was a continued level of redundancy amongst staff as further financial cutbacks were required. He confirmed that following sitting as a member of W.D.D.C, that he continued to be on Dorchester Town Council, and was this year acting as Deputy Mayor. He had been allocated to several Committees within the new Council, including Planning.

No other questions or comments were raised.

### 19/19 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.

### 20/19 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council

Councillors agreed the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stratton Parish Council held on 14th May 2019. D.Cllr D. Taylor requested that a copy of those Minutes be forwarded to him.

### 21/19 Finance

a) Income and Expenditure

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

#### Accounts at 16th July 2019

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

Account	Parish	V/Green	Parish Plan	VAT	Balance
Balance b/f	10,912.78	34,640.17	1,856.01	874.70	46,534.26
Receipts	2,835.00	2,080.00	0.00	870.04	5,785.04
Payments	594.86	764.82	0.00	152.21	1,511.89
Balance c/f	13,152.92	35,955.35	1,856.01	156.87	50,807.41

#### PAYMENTS IN

DC Precept					4,915.00
VAT Reclaim					870.04
<b>TOTAL</b>				£	<u>5,785.04</u>

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<b>PAYMENTS OUT</b>	<i>Inc VAT</i>
<u>Parish</u>	
RoSPA Annual Inspection	82.20
Plants	29.00
Harrisons Packaging - Dispenser Bin & Dog Bags	136.31
Clerk Salary (April to June)	388.60
<u>Village Green</u>	
Grounds Maintenance - May	210.00
Repairs - Metal Blades - Playarea	5.78
AG Tree Services - Felling Trees	660.00
<u>Parish Plan</u>	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	£ <u>1,511.89</u>

### b) Budget Monitoring

The financial position was discussed and agreed as being on target.

### c) Section 137

The process for Section 137 grants was to be started with details put on the web-page and in the Chalk Stream. Clerk to inform local groups who might not see those details. The closure date for applications likely to be 31 October 2019.

## 22/19 Highways

### a) Grimstone / A37

Confirmed that a top dressing had been carried out on the A37 at Grimstone and that the previously promised extra warning road signs of the 30mph area had been installed as part of these road works. All elements previously requested by the Parish Council had now been completed. Thanks, were given to the Highways Department of the Dorset Council.

Checks had been made and the existing contact point within Highways was still correct. (Minute 12/19 – 14 May 2019). Confirmed that members of the public still had ability to register a problem themselves via the Dorset Council Highways internet.

### b) Dead Tree – Penn Hill View

It was confirmed that a dead tree on Penn Hill View had been reported to Highways, and that the tree had been removed. Understood that a new beech tree was to be planted later in the year at an appropriate time.

## 23/19 General Maintenance

### a) Current Maintenance Issues

Review held of the Maintenance schedule. Several long-standing items had been completed. The bus shelter by the Alms-houses' had had the rotten planks replaced. While the steps from the Village Hall to the Village Green had had the joints cleaned and cemented. Thanks, given to Peter Hallett for finishing these two items.

Patch the Pony has been repainted and returned to the Younger Children's Play area. Thanks, given to the Chairman and Sue Aylott for doing all the work and re-painting.

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### b) Trees – Playing Field and Locks Lane

Confirmed that the previously reported trees on the playing field in a potentially dangerous condition had now been cut down and removed. (Minute 10/19 B) - 14 May 2019).

The beech tree in Locks Lane identified as being in a dangerous condition by Highways had now been cut down and removed by the Locks Lane Residents Association. (Minute 10/19 C) – 14 May 2019).

### c) Playing Field Fence

Quotations had been received for a number of options on the fence at the eastern end of the playing field. After discussion it was agreed to use concrete posts as part of the replacement fence. Cllr A Wheeler to confirm acceptance of the quotation supplied and get the work progressed.

### d) Playing Field Skate Ramps

Reported that after collaboration with the Youth Club Committee that the two skate ramps on the edge of the tennis court had now been removed.

Possible that a small amount of remedial ground work was now required to return the grassed area used by the ramps to an acceptable condition. This to be investigated and possible costs of such work reported to the next meeting.

### e) Playing Field Dog Bag Dispenser

The bag dispenser had been reported as broken and a new dispenser had been ordered. Awaiting erection of the new dispenser to the metal post.

### f) Alms-houses' Bench

Confirmed that the bench identified as being in a dangerous condition (Minute 9/19 G) – 14 May 2019) had been removed and disposed of. After discussion it was agreed that no immediate replacement bench be ordered as there were several options open to the Parish Council.

### g) Tree on Village Green

Reported that one of the new rowan trees planted on the Village Green was not a rowan. It appears that the rowan had been grafted onto a whitebeam root, but that the whitebeam root had taken over. A new rowan tree will be supplied by the contractor later in the year and the whitebeam removed and planted elsewhere. Councillors to decide where the whitebeam can be planted.

### h) Grass Cutting – Village Green

Chairman confirmed that following the last meeting that Kevin Kirk the maintenance contractor for the village green had broken his ankle. A replacement contractor had been appointed to cover Kevin's absence. But it was not currently clear when Kevin would be fit to resume duties.

## 24/19 Planning

- a) WD/D/19/001462 – Erection of first floor extension; form vehicular access and parking - 11 Dorchester Road, Stratton. No Parish Council objection registered.
- b) WD/D/19/000721 – Erect two storey side extension and detached single garage - 82 Dorchester Road, Stratton - Status: Approved

## **25/19 Future Policy Changes/Areas of Improvement**

### a) Public Notice Boards

Following a request for a rules and requirements statement on how Noticeboards should be used (Minute 79/18 – 19 March 2019). After discussion it was felt by Councillors that common sense should take place, and that no specific rules existed or would be created to cover use of Noticeboards. Items found to be inappropriate were always removed immediately and Councillors and other members of the public already remove out of date items.

### b) Wreath Holder

Following a request for additional and different types of fixings to be added to the wreath holder (Minute 79/18 – 19 March 2019). After discussion it was felt by Councillors that ours was only a small rural village, and that the wreath holder had been specifically designed for a small number of wreaths. There was not thought to be a large demand for alternatives. And, if a different type of display or article was used, then this could be fixed to the existing wreath holder by one of several easy methods.

Councillors agreed a list of potential policy changes and areas which it wished to see improved over the next few years. How these would be enacted to be discussed at future meetings.

Basic list covers:- Review Finance policy; Review Communication policy; Create a Wreath policy; Set up group with other Parish Councils for new Dorset Council electoral area; Carry out a simple Parish Plan review; Review future maintenance methods; Review future grounds maintenance methods; Review basic precept and budgeting process; Continue to identify objectives for expenditure of Planning Gain money. Agreed that interested bodies be approached with regards to a Wreath policy. Responses to be reported at the next meeting.

## **26/19 Planning Gain Wishlist**

No identified items at present, but acknowledged that further money would be required for one-off works on the Playing field. Amount to be decided later in the year. Understood that a request had been made to the Summer Fayre Committee for funding for a netball/basketball post. This still to be decided upon. Possible that the Parish Council might need to also be involved. Matter to be discussed at the next meeting.

## **27/19 Christmas Carol Event**

Detailed discussion held about the Christmas Carol event and potential alternatives. Cllr Wheeler outlined several alternatives explored and what effect they might have. It was felt that the event was losing its popularity and was not the village social event it had been a number of years ago. After considering the alternatives Councillors agreed that the event would not be held this year and that no suitable alternative was available.

## **28/19 Items for the next Agenda**

Wreath policy, Section 137 process, Maintenance – Playing Field, Finance policy, Netball/Basketball post, Wild Field Flower Meadow, Removal of Whitebeam tree.

## **Draft**

### **29/19 Public Participation**

- a) Comment made about the Parish Council including planning application details in meetings as previously promised. Application for works at 82 Dorchester Road had been made prior to the previous meeting, but not included in that meeting's agenda. Chairman confirmed that was correct, although not the fault of the Parish Council. It appeared that something had gone wrong with the planning process and the Parish Council itself only learned about the application after the deadline date for responding. As such it had not been able to make its own comments known to the Planning Section, or include in on any agenda.
- b) Question raised as to whether the Parish Council had considered having or supporting a Wild Field Flower Meadow. A short discussion followed and it was agreed that this would be investigated. Locations within Stratton were always difficult to find and it was not clear what the Dorset Council policy was on such expansion of Flower Meadows. D.Cllr D. Taylor agreed to check and see if there was any Dorset Council policy.

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

Ordinary Parish Meeting – Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 7pm  
Meeting closed at 8.45 pm