

Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Precept Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council held on
19th November 2019 at the Stratton Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, A. Wheeler, and four members of the public.

Welcome

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

Apologies

Apologies received from Dorset Council Cllr. David Taylor.

43/19 Public Participation

Comment made that the light in the Public Telephone box was not working. A good factor according to the commentator.

44/19 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.

45/19 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council

Councillors agreed the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th September 2019.

46/19 Agenda Items

Chairman confirmed that two items listed on the last Minutes (Pavement parking and Road Safety) which were to be brought to this meeting, were in fact not going to be discussed, but would be included on the January 2020 Agenda.

47/19 Finance

A) Precept for Year 2020/2021

A long discussion was held on setting the Precept for the next financial year. The existing budget and areas of expenditure were closely examined and agreed. Final agreement was reached that the precept be increased by the Rate of Inflation, which meant an increase of £150.00. The overall precept now being £9,980.00. The target budget set for 2020/2021 would mean a small deficit of £320.00. Precept forms received from the Dorset Council to be completed and returned to them with the new precept figure.

B) Income and Expenditure

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

Accounts to 19th November 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	12,715.84	34,770.99	1,856.01	414.91	48,927.93
Receipts	1,500.64	3,414.36	0.00	0.00	4,915.00
Payments	519.40	300.00	71.30	164.14	1,054.84
Balance c/f	13,697.08	37,885.35	1,784.71	579.05	52,788.09

Receipts	
Dorset Council – Precept	4,915.00
Virement to Village Green Account	1,334.36
Virement from Parish Account	-1,334.36
	4,915.00
Payments	
<u>Parish</u>	
DAPTC – Annual Conference	70.00
Dawsons Ltd - Bench	539.28
<u>Village Green</u>	
Dorset Council – Village Green – August & September	360.00
<u>Parish Plan</u>	
New Button Seat for Zip Wire	85.56
Total	1,054.84

C) Budget Monitoring

The ongoing budget monitoring position for the current financial year was reviewed and accepted. Several budget headings were highlighted as likely to be underspent.

D) Section 137 Grants

The Grants Panel had meet and it was confirmed that six applications had been received for a Section 137 Grant. After discussion the Grants Panel recommended that grants be allocated as follows: Children’s Xmas Party - £150.00, Charminster Brownies/Guides - £75.00, Stratton Allotment Society £100.00, Stratton Youth Club - £150.00 and Stratton Boules Group - £25.00. A request from the Heart of Stratton Defibrillator Group was not accepted, but Councillors felt that a grant of £75.00 for additional training should be made to the Group from the Planning Gain funds.

The Meeting accepted the recommendations of the Grants Panel and approved the amounts allocated. Councillors also discussed and agreed that a £50.00 donation be made to the West Dorset Myeloma Group in remembrance of Chris Boulton this to come from general funds. Chairman informed the meeting that there was a new group potentially setting up and could require initial support. Councillors agreed that if the group did set up and required assistance then a grant would be made by the Council.

E) Banking Arrangements

A resolution was put forward that the Council should apply for a Direct Debit card on the Parish Account, this to make matters easier when ordering items and equipment for Council purposes. All Councillors agreed and supported the resolution.

F) Advert for Vacancy of Parish Clerk

Cllr Hobbs confirmed that an advert had been placed in the Chalk Stream magazine with a closing date of 30th November 2019. Details had also been passed to DAPTC who were going to circulate details around the County. It was confirmed that several discussions had taken place on an informal basis with individuals, but no person had so far come forward.

48/19 General Maintenance

A) Playing Field Skate Ramps area

Chairman confirmed that a price had been obtained from a local contractor and circulated to Councillors. The price had been accepted and the contractor instructed to do the work (Minute 23/19 d) – 16th July 2019 and Minute 34/19 a) – 17th September 2019).

B) Playing Field Play equipment

The replacement button seat for the zip wire piece of equipment had been received, to be installed next Spring (Minute 34/19 d) – 17th September 2019).

C) Alms-houses' bench

Cllr Wheeler confirmed that Councillors had chosen a replacement bench and that this had now been ordered and paid for. The bench was made from roble a sustainable hardwood grown in Bolivia. As the bench was being made to order the Council were able to achieve a 30% discount on the recommended retail price. The bench would be delivered next February. The Chairman confirmed that several relatives and friends of Maureen Lloyd who had resided in the Alms-houses' had contacted him and wished to dedicate the seat to the memory of Maureen. Councillors agreed to this proposition. Likely that the Council would receive a donation from the family and friends to go towards the cost of the bench (Minute 23/19 f) – 16th July 2019 and Minute 34/19 e) – 17th September 2019).

D) Village Green Grass cutting update

Chairman had seen the contractor Kevin Kirk who was still awaiting clearance to return to work from his Consultant. After several discussions with Kevin it had been decided not to continue the contract for the rest of this financial year, but to start again next year. This position had been accepted by Kevin. The Dorset Council had continued to cover the grass cutting on the village green. It was accepted that some other areas of the contracted work would not be completed this year. Arrangements were being made for the hedge around the village green to be cut back and trimmed. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that a price had been submitted for this work by AG Tree Services, after discussion Councillors accepted the price submitted for this work, which would be completed during November (Minute 23/19 h) – 16th July 2019 and Minute 34/19 g) – 17th September 2019).

49/19 Planning

An update on the following planning notices has been received:

WD/D/19/001942 – Langford Farm – Change of Use of Barn – Application supported by Parish Council.

WD/D/18/001943 – Langford Farm – Alterations and conversion – Application supported by Parish Council.

WD/D/19/002266 – 11 Church View, Stratton – Conversion of garage into extra accommodation – Application supported by Parish Council – Application approved by Dorset Council on 12 November 2019.

WD/D/19/001971 – Retrospective application – erection of garden shed – 10 Ash Hill – Application supported by Parish Council. Application approved by Dorset Council on 1 November 2019.

50/19 Future Policy Changes/Areas of Improvements

A) Wreath Holder Policy

Comments had been received from the Stratton Parochial Church Council and incorporated into the Policy document. Councillors agreed to adopt the policy and to enact it forthwith. The main part of the policy was that wreaths could only be placed on the wreath holder for a maximum of two months. (Minute 37/19 a) – 17th September 2019).

51/19 Planning Gain Wish List

No new items to consider at present, although the previously agreed costs for tree removal and fence replacement had now been adjusted in the accounts.

Agreed that a £75.00 donation be paid to the Heart of Stratton Defibrillator Group for additional training events.

52/19 Rights of Way & Footpaths

Chairman confirmed that two villagers, Mrs H Jury and Mrs L Baker had offered to do checks on the footpaths and rights of way around the Parish. This offer was gratefully accepted by Councillors. An initial report had been received which showed that no major problems or repairs were required at present. Although footpaths and rights of way were now on internet applications, the Chairman confirmed that he would continue to try and get a definite paper copy of all footpaths and routes within the Parish showing the correct route reference numbers.

53/19 Wild Field Flower Meadow

Chairman confirmed that contact had been made with Mr Nick Page, Dorset Wildlife Trust and a site visit had been made to the playing field area. Following discussions with Mr Page, it was agreed that the general overall approach to the playing field area by the Parish Council was acceptable and allowed a wide spread of wildlife and plants to exist. A soil sample was to be taken to gauge the condition of the soil, for if a wild field flower meadow was to be established, wildflowers preferred a certain tolerance of ground conditions. There was a set routine of management required even when a meadow had been established. Possible that a cost of up to £2,000 would be required to fully establish a meadow over even part of the playing field. This would cover purchase and sowing of seed and carrying out the appropriate management of the land. No details had yet been received on the result of the soil sample. Chairman to contact Mr Page for the result and details of a local wild seed supplier. Councillors agreed to take no further action at present but to view this as a potential long-term project once more information had been received. (Minute 39/19 – 17th September 2019)

54/19 Correspondence

Confirmed that all relevant information received by the Parish had been circulated to Councillors.

55/19 Items for the next Agenda

New Parish Clerk, Pavement Parking, Road Safety.

56/19 Public Participation

Comment made on several issues. i) Thanks, were given for the grant to the Allotment Society, ii) Comment made that there were potential grants available to the Parish Council if a wild field flower meadow was undertaken. Details are to be passed to the Chairman, iii) Thanks, were given for the grant to the Defibrillator group and that it would be used for future training events, iv) In view of the difficulty in the Parish appointing a new local Parish Clerk had the possibility of a 'professional' clerk been considered.

Date of the next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting – 21st January 2020 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm