

Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council held on
17th September 2019 at the Stratton Village Hall

Present

Clrs A Aylott, C Hobbs, A. Wheeler, and three members of the public.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Ordinary Meeting. It was explained that the Parish Clerk, Christopher Boulton, who had been ill for some time had passed away in late August. As a mark of respect and as a tribute for the services provided by Christopher a minute's silence was held.

Apologies

No apologies received.

30/19 Public Participation

No matters raised.

31/19 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.

32/19 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Stratton Parish Council

Councillors agreed the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th July 2019.

33/19 Finance

A) Income and Expenditure

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

Accounts to 17th September 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	13,152.92	35,955.35	1,856.01	156.87	50,807.41
Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments	437.08	1,184.36	0.00	258.04	1,879.48
Balance c/f	12,715.84	34,770.99	1,856.01	414.91	48,927.93

Receipts

Nil

Payments

Parish

Stratton Village Hall – Hire of Hall – May & June	33.75
Parish Clerk – Salary – July & August	259.06
Parish clerk – Expenses – April to August	38.40
Website Hosting & Web Name	127.04

Village Green

Dorset Council – Village Green – June & July	480.00
AG Tree Services – Installation of Fence	941.23

Total 1,879.48

B) Budget Monitoring

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

C) Section 137 Grants

The process had been started and the current position was discussed, a couple of applications had been received so far. Closing date was the 31st October 2019. (Minute 21/19 c) – 16th July 2019).

D) Banking Arrangements

A change of address form had been received for the Bank so that the monthly statement would now go to the Chairman in the first instance.

Noted that a change of signatures still had to be completed for the National Savings Account.

E) Advert for Vacancy of Parish Clerk

Cllr Hobbs to see if she still held a draft of the Clerk's advert.

34/19 General Maintenance

A) Playing Field Fence

Confirmed that the work had been done and the new fence was installed with several good comments from members of the public to the contractor. (Minute 23/19 c) – 16th July 2019).

B) Playing Field Skate Ramps area

Chairman confirmed that a local contractor had been contacted and had viewed the area. Quotation was awaited from the contractor. Figure to be circulated to Councillors once received. (Minute 23/19 d) – 16th July 2019).

C) Playing Field Dog bag dispenser

Chairman confirmed that the new dog bag dispenser had been installed and bags supplied. (Minute 23/19 e) – 16th July 2019).

D) Playing Field Play equipment

The button seat on the zip wire piece of equipment had worn very badly and a new seat was required. After discussion it was agreed that a new button seat be purchased. Also discussed that the zip wire itself needed to be tightened. This to be arranged.

E) Alms-houses' bench

Discussion was held on the two previously identified potential options for replacing this seat. Both options were now not available to the Council. Agreed, therefore that the bench would be replaced with a new seat. Agreed that an amount of approximately £400 be set aside for the purchase. Councillors to arrange to make the purchase. (Minute 23/19 f) – 16th July 2019).

F) Trees on Village Green update

Potential for the tree to be removed from the village green to go where the tree in Locks Lane had been cut down. Cllr Hobbs to check the views of the Locks Lane Residents Group. (Minutes 23/19 g) – 16th July 2019).

G) Village Green Grass cutting update

Discussion was held on current position. Chairman had seen the contractor Kevin Kirk who was now up and about and mobile, but still not able to resume work. The current position of using the Dorset Council to cover the grass cutting on the village green to continue to at least the start of November. It was accepted that other areas of the contracted work were at present behind schedule. (Minute 23/19 h) – 16th July 2019).

H) Current Maintenance Issues

The Bus shelter at Ash Hill had been given a tidy-up, and several other items had been rescheduled for Autumn 2019. Agreed to re-visit the position of the safety of the map stand. Especially in view of the recent collapse of the public house notice board on the village green, which was found to have a seriously rotten base.

35/19 Highways

Sydling Viaduct turning – Temporary closure

Advance notification had been received from Dorset Highways that there was to be a temporary closure of the Sydling Viaduct turning on 4/5th November.

36/19 Planning

An update on the following planning notice has been received:

WD/D/19/001462 – Erection of first floor extension, form vehicular access and parking – 11 Dorchester Road, Stratton – Approved.

Two further notices had been received since the Agenda had been posted.

WD/D/19/001971 – Retrospective application – erection of garden shed – 10 Ash Hill – agreed by Councillors at the meeting to support the application.

Rights of Way – change of route of footpath. Councillors agreed to support an application to change the route of a footpath in Muckleford, Bradford Peverell. Although the change of route was within Bradford Peverell Parish the footpath started its route in Stratton.

37/19 Future Policy Changes/Areas of Improvements

A) Wreath Holder - Consultation

The views of the Reverend Phillips at Charminster had been received, although no comment had been made from within the village. Deane Parr confirmed that a meeting of the Stratton Parochial Church Council was not until Thursday 19th, he confirmed that the views of the PCC would be passed to the Parish Council following that meeting. Councillors agreed to hold the Policy until the PCC views had been obtained. Although a consensus was reached that a maximum of a two - month period be allowed for wreaths to be placed on the wreath holder.

B) Communications

The style and content of a communication leaflet was discussed and agreed, although in view of the Parish having no Parish Clerk at present that the circulation of the leaflet be held for the moment.

B) Finance Policy

The existing policy had been reviewed to bring it up to date and to cover inflation issues within the Village Green account. Councillors agreed to adopt the draft document which had been circulated. The new policy would help guide the setting of the precept at the November meeting.

38/19 Planning Gain Wish List

Netball/Basketball post

Chairman confirmed that he had on numerous occasions tried to speak to the originator of the e-mail forwarded to the Parish Council by the Summer Fayre group but had failed to make contact. Discussion held on potential cost, fixed or moveable post, and concerns over storage, security, insurance and indeed need. In view of lack of any detail it was agreed to hold back on making any decision. Although it was understood that the Summer Fayre group were not going to support the request.

39/19 Wild Field Flower Meadow

Contact had been made with Dorset Wildlife Trust and information and advice had been requested from them. Although the Council had been provided with a name and e-mail address, so far, no information has been received from them. Chairman to contact the Dorset Wildlife Trust again to try and get information.

40/19 Correspondence

A) Confirmed that an updated report on village amenities had been received from Mr Colin Jackson. This followed his report last year on village amenities as seen from the point of view if the Parish had entered the Dorset Best Kept Village Competition. The Chairman thanked Mr Jackson for his report. After discussion it was accepted that certain matters were outside of the control of the Council, and that several other highlighted areas were restricted by national legislation followed by the Council. Any decision whether to enter next years competition would be made early next year.

B) Correspondence had been received regarding the Christmas Carol Event, which the Council had already agreed to cancel. (Minute 27/19 – 16th July 2019). Comments had been received on the reason why this decision had been reached. Chairman confirmed what information had been passed to which individual and why, and that the original decision made by the Council still stood and the matter had been concluded.

C) Precept forms

Confirmed that precept forms had been received from the Dorset Council ready for the precept meeting to be held in November.

41/19 Items for the next Agenda

Wild Field Flower Meadow, Precept – Zero based budget, New bench, Skateboard Ramps area, Wreath policy, Section 137 Grants, New Parish Clerk, Pavement Parking, Road Safety.

42/19 Public Participation

Comment made on several issues. i) Does the button seat on the zip wire have to be plastic, ii) period of two months mentioned in the wreath policy was reasonable and acceptable, iii) request to check the condition of the legs on the swing in the younger children's play area, iv) Council informed that the Youth Club would be involved with a defibrillator training session, and, v) that a new bench was required by the Alms-houses' and if required additional monies should be used from the Planning Gain fund.

Date of the next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting – 19th November 2019 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm