

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair A Aylott

Clerk Vacant

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 7pm Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Andy Aylott (Chair)
Matt Garner (Vice-Chair)

Cheryl Hobbs

9 members of the public

21-72 To receive apologies of absence – Apologies received from Councillor Simon Joslin. No response from Ward Councillor David Taylor.

21-73 To receive declarations of interest on agenda items - none declared.

21-74 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 18th January 2022 - Councillors agreed to the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting.

21-75 Public participation – a number of comments were made by the members of public.

1. A37 Action group – expressed their thanks for the continued support of the Council. Requested updates as received and that the Council continues to apply pressure to the County Highways department for firm commitments.
2. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – representatives from the volunteer group updated the council on progress and outline plans. Various fund-raising activities including quiz nights at the Saxon Arms. So far, the plans are for a beacon event on 2nd June and a street party on Dorchester Road on 5th June. Parish Council is a required consultee – copy of email handed to the Council. Request that this is sent to the Clerk's email address with a response requested by the 18th March. Thanks, expressed to the Council for ongoing support.
3. Playing Field Trees – concern raised by resident that the trees at the Eastern end of the field may be vulnerable to storm damage. Cllr Aylott confirmed that there are regular arboriculture surveys undertaken and that no concerns had been raised by the surveyor. No action felt necessary at this stage. Also confirmed that the design intent for this area was a natural woodland with limited intervention.
4. Village Green Fund – thanks expressed for the statement on the Council website explaining the restrictions and covenants that govern what can and cannot be done with this fund. Question asked about how this could be communicated to those residents who do not have access to the internet – Cllr Hobbs confirmed that a similar article was planned for the next edition of the Chalk Stream magazine.
5. A37 & Drainage – it was reported that Bradford Peverell Parish Council had been in contact with Highways about the noise from the sump pump under the bridge. Stratton PC have no knowledge of this.

Signed (Chair)

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21-76 Finance

1. Receipts and Payments since the last meeting –

Accounts to 8th March 2022

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

Account	Parish	V/Green	Parish Plan	VAT	Balance
Balance b/f	16,605.28	36,733.90	1,419.56	45.01	54,713.73
Receipts	83.34	4.95	278.50	0.00	366.79
Payments	283.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	283.00
Balance c/f	16,405.62	36,738.85	1,698.06	45.01	54,797.52

PAYMENTS IN

Parish

Mr P Jackson - Donation - Hedgehog Signs	41.67
Mrs C Hobbs - Donation - Hedgehog Signs	41.67

Village Green

NS&I - Interest	4.95
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Parish Plan

Computer Reserve - Contribution for 2021/22	250.00
Mrs L Mallett - Donation - Queen's Green Canopy	28.50

TOTAL £ 366.79

PAYMENTS OUT (inc VAT)

Parish

Computer Reserve - Contribution for 2021/22	250.00
Jetpack - Software Security	33.00

TOTAL £ 283.00

2. Budget Monitoring Report – Cllr Aylott reported that there were a few bills to tidy up the financial year end and that the village green fund was overspent by approximately £400, but there was underspend against general maintenance and the Clerk's salary. Nothing unusual to report.

Signed (Chair)

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3. Cllr Aylott proposed, and it was agreed that sufficient funds should be moved from the General Account to maintain the balance of the Village Green fund.
4. Fixed Interest Bond – Cllr Aylott proposed that £20,000 formerly held in an NS&I account be transferred to a Fixed Interest Bond provided by United Trust Bank to benefit from a more favourable interest rate. All councillors agreed this. Agreed that Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be signatories.
5. Grounds Maintenance Contract – it was agreed that the existing contract would be renewed for a 3-year period at a 2.5% price increase. Cllr Aylott noted that depending on the outcome of the Queen's Green Canopy project there may be a scope change & cost reduction for the playing field maintenance.
6. Parish Clerk Appointment – Cllrs Hobbs & Garner reported that the Council had interviewed two applicants. Further discussion required to finalise appointment, which is hoped to be concluded by the end of the week.
7. Jubilee Budget (non-agenda item) – Cllr Aylott proposed that the Council provide a budget of £500.00 to support the planned celebrations. This was agreed.

21-77 Planning – Application P/FUL/2022/00090 Change of Use of Land, 7A Furburs Paddock – it was noted that there had been further correspondence received the applicant. The matter is now in the hands of Dorset Council Planning. No further action required by the Parish Council.

21-78 The Heart of our Community – Defibrillator Letter – Councillors discussed the request from the volunteer group to take over responsibility for the Defibrillator. Cllr Aylott confirmed that the Council does not have a statutory duty to provide or maintain a defibrillator. It is therefore a moral decision for the council. Differing views were expressed and it was concluded that the Council did not have sufficient information to be able to provide a definitive response. Confirmation is needed as to the likely 'whole-life' costs of the unit, the potential cost of maintaining it and whether the Council has the powers to take it on. Cllr Aylott to draft a response to the Heart of our Community Group letter. The Council is also aware of training to be scheduled on this subject by the DATPC. Item carried forward for further discussion on receipt of further information.

21-79 To receive reports of General Maintenance

1. New Play Equipment (Village Green) – brochure provided by Cllr Joslin's neighbour did not appear to contain what we are looking for (infants' swing & rocking horse replacement). Further research required. Cllr Joslin to ask neighbour for more information if they can assist.
2. Queen's Green Canopy Project – Cllr Aylott provided an update, and an application was in hand for submission in April to secure delivery of trees for November. Cllr Aylott will continue to progress.
3. Tree Damage (Playing Field) – Cllr Aylott confirmed that Wrackelford Farms were aware of the fallen trees and would arrange for their removal once the adjoining ground was sufficiently dry. Councillors will deal with the damaged willow tree – date to be arranged.

21-80 Highways and Rights of Way

1. A37 Highways Update – Cllr Garner confirmed that the Parish Council has responded to Dorset Highways requesting clarity on the scope and timing of the works that were implied in their last letter.

21-81 Correspondence

1. Signs have been erected widely around the village by the Dorset Council's dog warden.

Signed (Chair)

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2. Queen's Platinum Beacon ceremony – Cllr Aylott confirmed that the beacon ceremony had been registered with the Pageant Master and we have been provided with instructions. Both the farm and estate are agreeable to the proposed beacon location and timings. Some logistics and practicalities to work through.
3. Voluntary group – Queen's Platinum ceremony. Update provided in public participation. It was suggested that the event would benefit from a coordinated approach, and it was agreed that the Council having registered the 'Beacon' would now step back from arrangements and let Cllr Joslin act as the link with the Group.

21-82 To consider items for the next meeting

Update on Clerk, Defibrillator, Jubilee Plans, Canopy Project

21-83 Public participation – comments from the public,

1. Question regarding the electronic warning sign on the A37 – why does it show seemingly irrelevant warnings? Confirmed that this is operated by Dorset Council Highways & there is nothing the Parish Council can do.
2. The discussion about the defibrillator generated further comments from attendees. Cllr Aylott acknowledged that some of the language used during the initial discussion was unfortunate. It was not intended to cause offence/upset. Cllr Garner summarised the Council's current position in that it does not have sufficient information to make an informed decision that future councils will then have to live with. Once that becomes available the Council will be able to confirm whether it is or is not able to take responsibility for the defibrillator.

Date of Next Meeting – Confirmed as Tuesday 10th May 19:00 hrs.

Meeting closed at 8:15 pm

Signed (Chair)