

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair A Aylott

Clerk Vacant

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 8pm Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Andy Aylott (Chair)
Matt Garner

Cheryl Hobbs (Vice-Chair)
Simon Joslin

11 members of public

21-59 To receive apologies of absence - No apologies received – all councillors present. No response from Ward Councillor David Taylor.

21-60 To receive declarations of interest on agenda items - none declared.

21-61 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 9th November 2021 - Councillors agreed to the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting.

21-62 Public participation – a number of comments were made by the members of public.

1. A37 Action group – representative of the group confirmed they have received a copy of the letter from Dorset Council to the Parish Council. Disappointed at the outcome. Further update covered in agenda.
2. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – representative of Stratton Summer Fair Committee confirmed that they are in the process of establishing a group to plan and organise a village celebration. Requested Parish Council's support and agreement for the use of the village green for a village event over the weekend of 4/5 June. Council confirmed no objections to the use of the green and also that the Council (subject to costs) would fund any insurance requirements and underwrite the 'just in case' booking of the village hall.
3. Defibrillator – representative of the Heart of the Community Group outlined a proposal for the Council to take over responsibility for the defibrillator. All funds held by the Group would be donated to the Council. Primary reason behind the proposal is continuity. Councillors to consider the proposal and reply in due course.
4. Website – it was reported that the Parish Council website still contained out of date information regarding bus services. Cllr Hobbs to review and update.
5. Planning Application Land to Rear of 7a Furbers Paddock – concern was expressed that work had commenced in advance of permission being granted. It was noted that Dorset Council Planning Enforcement have been informed and have visited site. It was also reported that the proposed development was against the West Dorset Local Plan, inconsistent with the West Dorset AONB plan and in a Zone 3 Flood Plain Area.

21-63 Election of Vice Chair – Cllr Hobbs confirmed her decision to step down as Vice Chair with immediate effect. Cllr Hobbs proposed Cllr Garner to be appointed Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Aylott. Cllr Garner duly appointed as Vice Chair.

Signed (Chair)

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21-64 Finance

1. Receipts and Payments since the last meeting –

Account	Parish	V/Green	Parish Plan	VAT	Balance
Balance b/f	17,336.53	37,848.96	1,419.56	725.62	55,879.43
Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	752.62	752.62
Payments	731.25	1,115.06	0.00	72.01	1,918.32
Balance c/f	16,605.28	36,733.90	1,419.56	45.01	54,713.73

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

Receipts

VAT refund	752.62
TOTAL	£ 752.62

Payments

(inc VAT)

Parish

DAPTC - Councillor Training	35.00
JAF Graphics - Hedgehog Signs and fixings	180.00
Royal British Legion - Sect 137 Grant	25.00
Charminster St Mary's School - Sect 137 Grant	100.00
Charminster Guides - Sect 137 Grant	100.00
Dorchester Youth Centre - Sect 137 Grant	100.00
Stratton Defibrillator - Sect 137 Grant	80.00
Samaritans - Sect 137 Grant	50.00
Women's Aid - Sect 137 Grant	50.00
Stratton Village Hall - No. 2100	41.25
	761.25

Village Green

Dorchester Timber - Wood for Repairs	25.87
Mowlem Metalcraft - Repairs to Gate	144.00
V G Pullman & Sons - Clearing Gullies	590.00
R. Healey - Repairs to Climbing Frame	315.00
AG Tree Services - New tree & Guard fence	82.20
	1,157.07

TOTAL

1,918.32

Signed (Chair)

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2. Budget Monitoring Report – Cllr Aylott reported that the Village Green element of the account was overspent and will need to be balanced against other funds. Otherwise, all as expected.
3. Cllr Garner reminded Cllr Aylott of the action outstanding from the last meeting namely to make the restrictions associated with use of the Village Green fund more clearly and easily visible on the website.
4. S137 grants had all been paid (detail above in finance report). Acknowledgements and thanks for grants received from several of the organisations.
5. Cllr Aylott confirmed that the revised Precept agreed at the last meeting had been submitted to Dorset Council.
6. Hedgehog signs now in place & donations received from residents as promised.
7. Review of Administrative Procedures
 - a. Cllr Aylott confirmed that MS Office on the Parish PC had been updated.
 - b. Online banking was still work in progress, but all councillors committed to getting it set up.
 - c. Potential to transfer funds from NS&I account into a Bond which would pay slightly more interest was discussed. Agreed that we would wait until the next meeting to make any decisions – the difference is marginal, and funds would then be tied in for 12 months.
 - d. Remainder of the actions to be ‘parked’ until we have a new Parish Clerk.

21-65 Appointment of Parish Clerk - Cllr Garner confirmed that the advert was now ‘live’ on Dorset Association of Town & Parish Council website and was in the process of setting up for Jobcentre Plus and Indeed. Village social media sites also posted to. Cllr Hobbs will place on SPC website. Closing date confirmed as 25th February.

21-66 Planning

Planning application P/FUL/2022/00090 (Land to rear of 7a Furbers Paddock) was discussed. As the application had only very recently been received Councillors had not had the opportunity to form a view. It was however noted that, as stated in the public participation part of the meeting, works have started in advance of the appropriate approvals being in place. Councillors to revert to Chair with views by 28th January.

21-67 To receive reports of General Maintenance

1. Village Green Play Area – agreed in principle to replace the rocking horse and swing as they are nearing the end of their life. Cllr Joslin to discuss with neighbour potential sourcing. Cllr Joslin enquired whether it was appropriate for the Council to support fundraising activities for other initiatives such as the Playing Field equipment. Agreed that, in principle, yes. Cllr Joslin also agreed to see what other sources of funding might be available to the PC.
2. Safety Repairs – repairs to field gate and village green play equipment have been completed.
3. Queen’s Green Canopy Project – Cllr Aylott provided an update and confirmed that the Environment Agency have no objections to the idea providing it does not alter the level of the land. Advice received on suitable tree species for the area. There is a possibility of trees being donated by the Woodland Trust. Cllr Aylott to follow up.

Cllr Joslin enquired whether there was an opportunity to create a Community Orchard the Council will consider whether there is appropriate space as part of the Canopy project

Cllr Garner asked whether the Canopy would need to be completed prior to the Jubilee, Cllr Aylott confirmed that it is not a timebound project in so far as the current planting season goes.

Signed (Chair)

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21-68 Highways and Rights of Way

1. Bus Back Better – it was noted that there are a number of online briefing meetings for statutory bodies to be updated by Dorset Council. Cllr Garner to attend one and update the Council.
2. A37 Highways Update – Cllr Garner reported that a response to his letter to Dorset Council had been received. Whilst Highways recognise the issues that have been widely discussed, the summary of their position is that the severity of the incidents to date does not justify any physical works at this stage. There is a feasibility study being commissioned into medium/long term solutions, including the potential to alter the railway bridge to route all traffic onto the current Southbound carriageway, all of which will be subject to funding. Cllr Garner to reply to Highways, keep dialogue live and provide text for an update for the website. Same text will be used by the Action Group to update residents who responded to their survey.

21-69 To receive the correspondence report for information

1. Cllr Aylott reported that all correspondence had been circulated to councillors.
2. Cllr Hobbs confirmed that further messaging regarding dog fouling had been included in both the Chalkstream and PC Website. Cllr Joslin to consider any further required action.
3. Letter from Heart of the Community regarding defibrillator discussed councillors agreed to consider and prepare response by the next meeting

21-70 To consider items for the next meeting

Update on Clerk, Defibrillator, Jubilee Plans, Canopy Project

21-71 Public participation – comments from the public,

1. Question regarding planning – why didn't the reference of the planning application appear on the agenda? Chair responded stating that the documents landed between the publication of the agenda and the meeting.
2. Question regarding commemorative wreaths – could the 'wreaths policy' that applies to the war memorial be extended to the village green? Cllr Aylott responded that yes, the Council would take a similar approach and that what the Council considered to be 'excessive' would be removed.
3. Question regarding the condition of the Village Green – is the Council going to arrange for the removal of the built-up compacted leaves, especially at the Eastern end? Likely due to the late leaf fall & it has been worse, but Cllr Aylott to seek advice from the ground's maintenance contractor with a view to ensuring, as far as practicable, that the green is in good condition.

Date of Next Meeting – Confirmed as Tuesday 8th March 19:00 hrs.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed (Chair)