

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair A Aylott

Clerk Vacant

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9 November 2021 7pm At Stratton Village Hall

Present:

A Aylott

C Hobbs

M Garner

4 members of public

21-48 To receive apologies of absence

Cllr Joslin (work commitment). No response from Ward Councillor David Taylor who is still unwell. Chairman reported that the Clerk, Mrs Michelle Harding had recently resigned and would not therefore be in attendance. Cllr Garner offered to take the minutes.

21-49 To receive declarations of interest on agenda items - none declared.

21-50 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14th September 2021

Councillors agreed to the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting.

21-51 Public participation – a number of comments were made by the members of public.

1. A37 Action group – update provided on PVMS traffic warning sign, which is now in place, although needed to be re-programmed by Dorset Council. Promised speed survey has not yet been undertaken. Cllr Garner had met with the A37 Group and to provide an update of that meeting as part of item 8 on the agenda.
2. Viability of the Parish Council – question asked as to the viability of the Parish Council as there were so few councillors and requested clarity on elections. Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council was entitled to 7 councillors. There are 4 councillors at present, two of whom (Cllr Joslin and Cllr Garner) are co-opted. Space therefore remains for 3 further co-opted councillors which the Parish Council would welcome. Positions such as Chair are elected by the Parish Council at the May AGM. The last elections were 2019 with a 5-year term.
3. Village Green ‘fund’ – question asked to explain why there was such a significant capital sum sitting in the accounts. Chairman explained that due to previous planning constraints & covenants draw down from this fund is restricted. The intent being that the interest gained from the capital amount would ensure that the village green and playing field were maintained in perpetuity. Suggested that this fact could be made clearer on the councils website. Action AA/CH

Signed (Chair)

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21/52 Finance

1. Hedgehog Signs – it was agreed that the proposed signs would be ordered, part funded by the council from General Maintenance and part by donations. Council will arrange fitting (Cllr Garner). Chairman to check and see if order has been placed. Action AA

2. Income and Expenditure

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

Accounts to 9th November 2021

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

Account	Parish	V/Green	Parish Plan	VAT	Balance
Balance b/f	15,265.21	38,839.62	1,419.56	73.51	55,450.88
Receipts	2,810.00	2,180.00	0.00	0.00	4,990.00
Payments	738.68	3,170.66	0.00	652.11	4,561.45
Balance c/f	17,336.53	37,848.96	1,419.56	725.62	55,879.43

Receipts

Parish

Dorset Council – Precept 2nd Tranche 2,810.00

Village Green

Dorset Council – Precept 2nd Tranche 2,180.00

Total 4,990.00

Payments

Parish

123 Reg - Hosting 115.06

Fleur Graphics – Cards and Newsletter 46.80

Clerk – Salary and Expenses Oct/Nov 2021 444.60

HMRC - Paye 81.20

DAPTC - Training 78.00

Village Green

Dorchester Timber – Wood for Repairs 132.19

Quickfast – Screws for Repairs 7.13

R. Healey – VG Fence Posts and Play Area 45.00

Dorset Council – Village Green grass cutting 1,607.76

Dorset Council – Playing Field grass cutting 1,685.71

AG Tree Services – Hedge Trimming 318.00

Total 4,561.45

Signed (Chair)

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- 3 Budget Monitoring report not seen, but Chairman confirmed that there were no known problem areas, agreed that detail would be checked. Action AA
4. Consider S137 applications received. Proposed schedule of allocation of grants agreed. St Mary's School, Charminster - £100, Charminster Guides - £100, Dorchester Youth and Community Centre - £100, Stratton Defibrillator £80, Samaritans - £50, Woman's Aid - £50 and Royal British Legion - £25. A Caveat on the grant to Defibrillator Group was discussed and agreed.
5. No separate budget report for 2021/22 was presented. Sufficient detail covered in Note 2. for this heading.
6. To consider the budget for 2022/23.
Precept for 2022/23 was discussed by councillors and proposed budget agreed. This would result in an increase to the precept of £1,000, up to £11,000 (an increase of under £4 per household for the year). Proposed budget appended - Appendix A.
7. Review of practices – Councillors met with the Clerk on 3 November to carry out a review of the current administrative 'ways of doing things' with a view to adopting or adapting new ways of working. A prioritised list was drawn up and agreed; Councillors will consider the capacity to action the recommendations given the recently vacant clerk's post. It was agreed that a sum (£25k) would be used from the council's balances and put into a Fixed Bond to provide additional interest at some point in time.

21-53 Planning

1. P/HOU/2021/01627- 2 Dorchester Road - no objections raised
2. P/HOU/2021/03878 - supported by the council
3. P/PABA/2021/04041 - Erection of agricultural storage barn - Park Farm - no comment.

21-54 To receive reports of General Maintenance

1. Play Area – No progress to report. Action (to canvas parents of younger children about what they would like to see as replacement play equipment) carried forward. Action MG
2. Queens Green Canopy Project – Chairman confirmed that the council has now written to the Environment Agency to enquire about the feasibility of a flower meadow/tree planting scheme on the playing field.
3. Others
 - a. Chairman confirmed that repairs to the climbing frame in the play area are underway. Scope a little more extensive than anticipated. Agreed to replace rotten components when required.

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- b. Chairman to chase contractor to repair gate to playing field (post meeting note – this has now been done confirmed by Cllr Garner).

21-55 Highways and Rights of Way

1. Frampton & Grimstone Halt Project – it was noted that the council have not been approached about this project. Neither have other Parish Councils in the area. Notwithstanding, it was, after some debate, agreed that the council's position would be to review the potential reopening on its merits once further information was provided. The council remains open to any improvements to public transport services for the Parish.
2. Bus Back Better review – deferred due to Cllr Joslin's absence. Action SJ
3. A37 Action Group – Cllr Garner provided a narrative update on the meeting with the A37 Action Group. A proposed email to Dorset Council from Cllr Garner on behalf of both the council and Action Group had been circulated. After debate, the majority of councillors present felt that the proposed wording did not entirely reflect the Parish Council's historical involvement with this issue. Action AA/MG

21-56 To receive the correspondence report for information

1. The correspondence report was circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. Specific items for discussion.
 - a. Electric Vehicle & Solar Power – Cllr Garner updated the council following integration with Dorset Council & 3rd party providers. In brief there does appear to be a feasible scheme to develop with some grant or 3rd party funding available. Potentially two projects – solar panels on the Village Hall (although this is not a Parish Council asset) and community Electric Vehicle (EV) charging. After debating it was concluded that there was not a majority desire to progress either element of the project by the Parish Council at this moment in time. Cllr Garner will keep in contact with Dorset Council and others and keep the council appraised of relevant future developments.
 - b. Dog mess – Cllr Hobbs will follow up with Cllr Joslin for additional signage in the areas worst affected by this spike in anti-social activity. Cllr Hobbs to reinforce the councils concerns with an announcement on the Parish Website and an article in the Chalk Stream. Cllr Joslin requested to update on provision of any further signage. Action CH/SJ

21-57 To consider items for the next meeting on 11th January 2022

Highways A37, New Clerk, Review of Practices, Play area, and Bus back.

21-58 Public participation – comments from the public,

Signed (Chair)

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1. Concern raised that the council appeared to be holding meetings 'behind closed doors'. Chairman confirmed that a working group had been discussing potential administrative changes which would benefit the operation of the council in the future.
2. A plea to make the Parish Council's accounts clearer – particularly with regard to the constraints around the village green fund.
3. Pointed out that the normal 'visual' presentation on the propped budget for 2022/23 did not take place, and this caused difficulties for members of public attending to understand the figures being mentioned. Chairman apologised for that but confirmed that the full budget spreadsheet would be attached to the meetings minutes as an Appendix. Action AA
4. Councillors were asked whether the Parish Council had or was intending to make plans for the Queen's Jubilee – Councillors confirmed that due to lack of councillors that is not something which the council can lead at the moment.
5. A member of the Defibrillator Group confirmed that the group would ensure the caveat discussed by the council would be agreed to.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed (Chair)

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Appendix A – Stratton Parish Council Budget Estimates 2022/23

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL - ESTIMATES 2022/2023

APPENDIX A

RECEIPTS	Parish				Village Green				Parish Plan			
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Precept	5,670	5,700	5,620	6,400	4,160	4,280	4,360	4,600	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest					300	300	30	30				
Computer Reserve									250	250	250	250
Parish Plan - Allotments	250	250	250	250								
Total Receipts	5,920	5,950	5,870	6,650	4,460	4,580	4,390	4,630	250	250	250	250
PAYMENTS												
Insurance	550	560	570	570	200	210	190	200				
Playground Inspection	140	150	100	150								
Village Green/Hedges					2,520	2,570	1,750	1,800				
Playing Field/Drainage Ditches					1,240	1,300	1,950	2,000				
DAPTC Subscription	240	250	250	250								
DAPTC Training	400	300	150	200								
Clerk's Salary	1,600	1,600	2,600	2,600								
Clerk's/Councillor's Expenses	150	150	200	500								
Stratton Village Hall - Hire	160	160	160	160								
DWP dog bin contact/Bags	210	230	250	250								
Website/Computer Expenses/Reserve	400	500	650	650								
Donations - Section 137	500	520	500	500								
New Services - Ex DC	0	200	0	0								
External Audit	0	0	0	0								
Parish Plan Initiatives & Allotments	250	250	250	250					300	300	300	300
Election Costs - New Cost	500	0	0	0								
General Maintenance	520	550	500	500	500	500	500	500				
Unallocated Budget	0	300	150	150								
Total Payments	5,620	5,720	6,330	6,730	4,460	4,580	4,390	4,500	300	300	300	300
Balance	300	230	-460	-80	0	0	0	130	-50	-50	-50	-50

Precept 2021/22 - 2022/23

9,980

Increase @ by RPI

(September 2020 > September 2021)

2.90%

290

Total income

11,530

Target Precept

11,000

Total Expenditure

11,530

Other Income

530

Total Inc. 2022/23

11,530

deficit +/-

0

Signed (Chair)