

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair A Aylott

Clerk D Northover

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th January 2023 at 7.00pm at Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Clrs A Aylott (Chairman), M Garner, C Hobbs and D Northover (Clerk) and five members of public.

22-52 To receive apologies of absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr S Joslin.

22-53 To receive declarations of interest on agenda items - None

22-54 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 8th November 2022

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

22-55 Public Participation

Attention was brought to the Council about a flooding/storm water issue as a result of blocked gullies and drains on the A37 at the junction with the eastern end of the village. The topography meant that any run-off water from heavy rain was accumulating in some quantity along the eastern stretch of Dorchester Road. The Chairman appreciated this being drawn to their attention and the Parish Council would follow it up with Dorset Highways to see if anything could be done to rectify this. A more regular maintenance of gullies would help but the schedule was determined by Dorset Highways. Cllr Garner agreed to take this up with Dorset Highways.

22-56 Finance

a) To consider receipts and payments due to be paid or paid since the last meeting

To acknowledge the necessary payments made and monies received.

Accounts at 10 January 2023

Monies in the Village Green Account cannot be used for any other purposes

Year to date totals

Account	Parish	V/Green	Parish Plan	VAT	Balance
Balance b/f	20,116.31	41,064.16	1,698.06	462.26	62,416.27
Receipts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payments	5,098.71	3,899.84	948.06	1,765.81	11,712.42
Balance c/f	15,017.60	37,164.32	750.00	2,228.07	50,703.85

Receipts

TOTAL 0.00

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Payments

(inc VAT)

Parish

Training DAPTC – Simon Joslin	49.00
S137 Grant – Royal British Legion	25.00
S137 Grant – Stratton Pop In Group	100.00
S137 Grant – Chalk Stream Magazine	50.00
S137 Grant – Stratton Allotment Society	100.00
S137 Grant – The Heart of Our Community	50.00
S137 Grant – Dorchester Community Church/Food Share Fund	50.00
S137 Grant – Julia’s House	50.00
Stratton Village Hall – Hire of Hall	80.62
Huck Tek – Play Equipment	5,702.52

Playing Field

Poundbury Garden Centre – Grass Seed	8.95
Dorset Council – Grounds Maintenance – VG	1,655.99
Dorset Council – Grounds Maintenance – PF	1,736.28
Alan Goldstone – Trees on Village Green	252.00
VG Pulman and Sons – Ditch Clearance	554.00
Huck Tek – Play Equipment	300.00

Parish Plan

Huck Tek – Play Equipment	948.06
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Total

11,712.42

b) To receive the Budget Monitoring report

The budget monitoring report was received and noted.

c) Allocation of S137 grants

The Chairman reported that the Council had now allocated the S137 grants on the basis of the agreement made at the last meeting. The grant in respect of the Village Christmas Tree (David Cartwright) – had been donated to the Dorchester Community Church’s Food Share Fund and Julia’s House charities. Letters of thanks from the Groups had been received.

d) To consider the precept for 2023/24

It was confirmed that an application had now been made to Dorset Council for the agreed precept of £12,200 for the year 2023/24 and this was being processed.

e) Investment of Funds

The Chairman took the opportunity to clarify what the options were for the ongoing arrangements with the funds invested with the United Trust Bank - a sum of £20,000 had

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been invested in a 6-month bond and this was due to mature before the Council's next meeting. How it should be further invested needed to take into consideration any increase in the bank rate and the length of investment. The Chairman considered it would be beneficial to roll over the 6-month bond for another 6 months, and for the 1-year bond held for another 12 months. The Bank of England's were due to make an announcement in early February on interest rates, he would email all Councillors to assess, determine and agree the best course of action to take for the investments to realise the optimum interest available.

22-57 **Planning** – There was confirmation that a recent planning application - P/HOU/2022/07472 - to Erect new porch -7a Furbers Paddock, Stratton DT2 9TR - had raised no objection from the Council and Dorset Council had been notified of this acceptance.

22-58 **To receive reports on General Maintenance**

a) Tree and shrub pruning work

The Chairman confirmed the pruning works undertaken on trees and shrubs around the green and along Dorchester Road to enable safe unobstructed passage had been completed successfully. Private householders identified as having similar such overgrown trees had been notified by Dorset Highways of their need to take remedial action too.

b) Three Year Tree report

The tree report had now been circulated to Councillors for their information and analysis. The report had been very thorough, and Councillors understood the need to take what action was being proposed and as deemed necessary. The recommended actions would be fully discussed by Councillors at the next meeting. The report would be made available on-line.

c) Update on planting the Queen's Green Canopy

The Chairman thanked those volunteers who had help plant the Queen's Canopy saplings on Saturday 19th November and there was every hope these would thrive and become a testament to the community spirit of the village.

d) Improvements list

A list of improvements and maintenance works required was mentioned including: - timber plank replacement in the play area; two replacement posts, soil to cover parts of the play area and to be reseeded. Entrance gate to play area to be replaced, plus climbing frame steps to be replaced. Tennis court posts require coverings to avoid empty ground holes.

22-59 **Highways and Rights of Way**

Update on A37/Railway Bridge flooding

Whilst there had been considerable recent disruption caused by the flooding issues on the A37 under the railway bridge, remedial works had been undertaken by Dorset Highways to rectify the situation – both in terms of road resurfacing and maintenance of the water pump. Disruption had been kept to a minimum - once the necessary materials had been supplied. It was acknowledged that given the hydrological factors at play any maintenance had its limitations, with a major engineering solution being the only practical long-term solution. One suggestion

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previously made was that the earthen bank on the south side of the river could be reconfigured so that the water meadows accommodate more of the river water. Discussion has been held with the Environment Agency on this issue.

Attention was also drawn to a road sign close to the entrance of the village that had been displaced. Cllr Garner would take this up with Dorset Highways.

22-60 Correspondence

An update on the defibrillator lease arrangements

The meeting was informed about progress with the lease arrangements for a new defibrillator. A lease had now been prepared by SWAST and signed by the Parish Council. While a Letter of Agreement had been signed with The Heart of Our Community (Defibrillator Voluntary Group). The Parish Council would pay the invoice once submitted by SWAST, with a donation being made by the Voluntary Group to the Parish Council towards this cost.

22-61 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 14 March 2023 starting at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Items for consideration would be: - provisions of a new Code of Conduct for Councillors; an update on the defibrillator lease arrangements; the Tree survey; review of Council policies; King's Coronation arrangements.

22-62 Public Participation

One comment was made regarding the A37/Railway Bridge. That it was logical that the railway bridge over the southern road needed to be raised, as per the bridge over the northern road. That would then allow the level of the road to be raised above the water level. It was confirmed that this option had already been raised with Dorset Highways.

There was no other questions or points raised.

Meeting ended at 19:50.