**Minutes of the Meeting of Stratton Parish Council held on**

**Wednesday 13th September at 7.00 pm at Stratton Village Hall**

Present:

Cllrs Andy Aylott, Cheryl Hobbs, Matt Garner, and Simon Joslin.

Dorset Councillor David Taylor.

5 members of the public.

**23. 39 To receive apologies of absence**

All members were present.

**23.40 To receive any declarations of interests on agenda items**

Cllr Garner declared an interest in agenda item 9a.

**23.41 To approve the minutes of** **the Parish Council meeting on 11th July 2023**

The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, with one minor amendment, which was changed and initialled by the Clerk.

**23.42 Chair’s Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed the new Clerk.

It was confirmed that most Queen’s Jubilee Canopy trees had survived.

All the planters were in good order.

The Wrackleford War memorial had been cleaned.

Cllr Joslin stated that the tree adoption for the Queen’s Jubilee Canopy was going well, and that 95% of the trees had been adopted.

**23.43 Update on Councillors actions (refer to attached Action Log) and general update on areas of responsibility not covered by Agenda items**

 23.43.2 Chase DWP on an answer. (Clerk)

 23.43.3 Clerk appointed.

 23.43.4 Cllr Joslin to complete. (SJ)

 23.43.6 Contractor given go ahead to complete works. (SJ)

 23.43.7 Continue to defer until tree costs are known. Agree to go to procurement.

 23.43.8 Look at once tree adoption is complete. (SJ)

**23.44 Update from Dorset Council**

Cllr Taylor confirmed that Dorset Council also had a tree adoption scheme if needed.

Cllr Taylor spoke about the improvements that DC had or were due to complete.

A more comprehensive minute can be found at **23.51.**

It was also confirmed that cycle route 26, from Bristol to Portland, was almost completed.

**23.45 Public Participation.**

Members of the public thanked Dorset Council for all the works on the A37.

It was asked if the A37 traffic could be slowed down on both the exits.

(The Chair noted this could be the next project once the current A37 improvements were completed).

It was mentioned that the agenda and previous minutes were not placed on the noticeboards.

(The Chair disagreed, and that they were on the boards).

It was agreed that draft minutes should be placed on the boards and website as soon as completed.

Action – SJ will continue to populate the notice boards.

**23.46 Finance**

**23.46.1**

**To consider receipts and payments due or paid since the last meeting**

A total of **5** payments **(PV’S 12-16)** totalling **£ 925.72** were approved and authorised for payment.

One receipt of **£ 441.09** (VAT rebate) had been applied for.

**23.46.2**

**To receive the Budget Monitoring report**

The Clerk confirmed that the budget spend sat at **24.83%,** at the half way point of the financial year.

**23.47 Planning**

23.47.1 P/HOU/2023/03683

33 Dorchester Road, Stratton, DT2 9RU

Extend existing hipped roof and construct a new larger dormer window to increase first floor accommodation with rooflights and Juliette balcony. Alter doors and windows at ground floor to create a new entrance.

The Parish Council supported this application.

23.47.2 P/PAEL/2023/05067

Telecommunications Mast Grimstone Dairy Grimstone Dairy Access Road Grimstone DT2 9NA

Remove existing 17.7m mast with 3no. antennas and 1 microwave dish and erect a 17.6m monopole with 3no. antennas, 1no. 0.3m dish and ancillary equipment, install 1no. equipment cabinet within the compound and carry out ancillary development.

The Parish Council supported this application.

**23.48 Playing Field**

**23.48.1 Goal Posts purchase**

Members agreed that the current goal posts had rusted through and were now a health and safety issue. Cllr Joslin had spoken to Dorset Council who offered two junior goalposts for

£ 40 plus £ 10 delivery.

**Resolution: It was unanimously agreed to purchase the goal posts at this cost.**

**A provisional budget of £ 50 was also set aside for installation.**

**Action – Cllr Joslin or SJ depending on how you like to record it**

**23.48.2 Gulley Clearance**

It was agreed to include this in any future procurement of green space maintenance.

However, for the short term, Cllr Joslin would source a quote. Action - SJ

**23.48.3 Queen’s Canopy trees & signage**

The Clerk would contact the RBLI and ascertain if any of the official Queen’s Green Canopy were still available for purchase.

Action - Clerk

**23.49 Tree report actions**

Members were content that the recommendations from the report were being actioned.

**23.50 Provision of Christmas Tree**

It was proposed to continue with the current arrangements.

Cllr Joslin with liaise with all those concerned. Members were all content.

Action - SJ

**23.51 A37 flooding update**

Cllr Taylor (DC) spoke on the works the Highways team had completed and were to conduct to alleviate (where possible) the flood issues. These included:

Retarmac of road with anti-slip surface

Raising of the camber

Gullies and drains to be cleared regularly

New pipes with flaps to ensure no water back flows

It was noted that flooding was caused by side field run off. The landowner had been informed DC will update once discussions have concluded.

The railways had been cautioned to ensure the bridge area needed to be cleared

More signage to be installed

Extisting warning signage will still be made available

The question was asked about pedestrian safety between the end of the pedestrian barrier by the railway bridge and the entrance to Stratton, as there was no curb and lightweight barriers.

Cllr Taylor confirmed this would be asked and a full report sent in due course.

**23.52 S137 awards**

It was agreed to discuss and sanction all of this at the November meeting.

The cut off for applications would be **31st October 2023.**

Cllr Hobbs would advertise this on all relevant media.

Action - CH

**23.53 Future of the BT phone box**

Cllr Hobbs updated members on this matter, including applications for listing, cleaning, and painting.

It was suggested that to ensure that the phone box remained part of the village street scene, that the Parish Council should adopt the phone box.

**Resolution: This was unanimously agreed. The Clerk would complete the application.**

**The cost was £1.**

**Action - Clerk**

**23.54 Condition of Village Green and Playing Field**

It agreed that the usual standard had dropped over the summer. The contractor had apologised and explained this was due to staff shortages.

It was confirmed it was back to where it should be.

It was suggested that as the current contract was in its final year, now would a good time to start a new procurement process.

**The Clerk and Cllr Joslin would work on this, with a view to bringing to the next meeting.**

**Action – Clerk & SJ**

**23.55 Overhanging brambles and vegetation behind Church View properties**

The Parish Council were content that the dwelling in question could cut back and dispose of any ingressing vegetation.

The Clerk would write back to the compliant.

Action - Clerk

**23.56 Purchase of the unknown Tommy from Royal British Legion**

Members were collectively unconvinced on the value, both monetary and physically on this project.

Cllr Garner would write a piece for all media and ask Parishioners on their thoughts and views.

Action MG

**23.57 To confirm items for the next meeting Tuesday 14th November 2023**

Cllr Hobbs sent advance notice of absence.

Further update on the future of the telephone box.

S137 awards.

Specification on future grass cutting and village green space maintenance.

Initial budget 24/25 discussion.

**23.58 Public Participation and Parish Notices**

Cllr Joslin confirmed that he will oversee the cleaning of the bus shelters.

It was substantiated there was no evidence of motor bikes on the playing field.

To conclude, it was mentioned that the Silver Band were playing on the 15th December.

Fund raisers were to be held on the 29th October and 03rd December.

Meeting closed at 8:37pm