

# STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Mr Wayne Lewin

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Stratton Parish Council held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00 pm at Stratton Village Hall**

Present:

Cllrs Andy Aylott, Matt Garner, and Simon Joslin.

7 members of the public.

### **23.59 Appointment of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Stratton Parish Council**

Members agreed that Mr Wayne Lewin be appointed.

It was confirmed that the appointed on a self-employed basis, and thus responsible for personal PAYE and NI contributions.

### **23.60 To receive apologies of absence**

Cllr Cheryl Hobbs sent apologies.

### **23.61 To receive any declarations of interests on agenda items**

Cllr Aylott declared an interest in minute 23.69.

Cllr Garner also declared an interest in minute 23.69.

### **23.62 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **23.63 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair updated the Council on the following matters:

Clearance of the drainage ditch had been completed.

There was only 6 months until the elections. 7 Councillors could be appointed.

The current members could still co-opt any interested and eligible member of the public.

There were only 2 more meetings until the current council was dissolved.

That he had attended the Clerks conference and had been updated on the planning portal, planning decisions, and social media policies.

That he and Cllr Joslin had attended the Finance training course, as laid on by DAPTC.

Updated on various community events including Remembrance Sunday and quiz nights.

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

S1	Telephone box	Awaiting planning decision
S2	Waste bin	To discuss a new bin at next meeting
S10	New goal posts	Purchased and arrived
S12	Play Park repairs	Slide done Field Gate Zip wire stripped down

### **23.65 Update from Dorset Council**

Cllr Taylor had provided (in advance) an update on A37 flooding issues.

Cllr Garner was disappointed that the important matter of pedestrian safety had not been mentioned.

**He would contact Cllr Taylor and request some answers**

An email had been circulated as to various grants that could be obtained from Dorset Council.

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## **23.66 Public Participation**

Members of the public continued to express their concerns on the apparent lack of progress regarding the A37 (as above at 23.65). A further request was made to consider the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the roads within the village.

It was requested that an on-site meeting with Cllr Taylor and members of the Dorset Council be facilitated regarding the A37. Councillors will review historic information regarding the requested 20mph limit and report back at a future meeting.

It was asked as to regards the purchase of the unknown Tommy. It was mentioned that the feedback was generally positive and that a resident had offered a donation towards it.

Views of concern with expressed with regards the trees between the Church and the Public House – in that the branches were now very close to houses and were perceived a danger. The landowner had been approached but no action taken.

**Cllr Joslin would hold a meeting with the residents.**

## **23.67 Finance**

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

There were **9** payments (**PV's 17-25**), totalling **£ 1759.04** were approved and authorised for payment.

A further **5** payments (**PV's 26-30**), totalling **£ 420.00** were later approved and authorised for payment under minutes 23.69.

### **b. To receive the Budget Monitoring report**

Including the payments detailed under 23.67a, the budget spends for the financial year 23/24 stood at **40.77%**.

## **23.68 Planning**

### **a. P/TEA/2023/05028**

**Land to south of 46, 1 The Old Bull Inn, Dorchester Road Stratton DT2 9RZ**

#### **Removal of Telephone box**

The Parish Council OBJECTED to this application and had formally requested to adopt the phone box.

### **b. P/HOU/2023/05242**

**5 Bull Close Stratton DT2 9TQ**

#### **Remodel of rear Conservatory to provide an enhanced Kitchen/Dining area**

It was noted that the decision had already been made, so there was no comment needed.

## **23.69 Recommendation from working group on S137 awards**

The working group recommended the following:

Allotments society	£80.00
History Group	£80.00
Stratton Pop In	£80.00
The Heart of the Community	£80.00
Stratton Strollers	£100.00

**This was unanimously endorsed by all members.**

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## **23.70 Purchase of Microsoft 365 package**

It was agreed to purchase a muti account via 123 reg.

**The Clerk would get this added to 123 reg account via direct debit.**

## **23.71 Purchase of RBLI plaque for the Queens Green Canopy**

This was unanimously agreed at a cost of £129.99.

**CLlr Aylott would purchase via the Council debit card.**

It was noted that sapling loses were only in single figures.

## **23.72 Procurement of fencing works for small play park**

The Parish Council had received three quotes, thus ensuring that the procurement protocol had been met.

All members of the Parish Council agreed that the quote from Rolls Landscaping Ltd best met the requirements, in that it was the cheapest, and a known local contractor.

**The Clerk would confirm works with the company.**

## **23.73 Ratification of tree works on Village Green**

Members confirmed that the quote from AG tree services was fair and proportional and endorsed the work to be completed at a cost £218.00 (less discount to combine works already scheduled).

## **23.74 EV charging point(s) for Stratton**

The Chair had met with the Dorset Council EV team.

A location had been identified close to the Village Hall. The land belonged to Dorset Council so no further consultation was needed. DC were looking at installing two charging points.

**The Parish Council fully supported this project.**

## **23.75 Specification of future grass cutting and village green space maintenance**

There were no changes to the previous specification, in that the village green was to have 12 cuts and 12 strims (around trees and bollards), whilst the recreation ground to have 12 cuts (and 6 strims).

**The Clerk would ask Rolls Landscaping Ltd and Dorset Council for quotes.**

## **23.76 Setting of procurement level**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

## **23.77 Discussion on approval, authorisation, and payment of invoices**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

## **23.78 Initial budget setting for 24/25**

The Clerk had drafted a provisional budget.

The main areas of change were:

Removal of interest

Increase in staff salaries

Increase in Village Green maintenance costs

Decrease in General maintenance costs

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Removal of unallocated budget

This saw a potential increase in the Precept to £12300 from £12200.

Councillors will consider the initial proposals and revert with their views in time for the January meeting where the Precept/Budget must be agreed following a more detailed discussion.

## **23.79 To confirm items for the next meeting Tuesday 09<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Setting of procurement level

Discussion on approval, authorisation, and payment of invoices

Setting of the budget and Precept for 24/25

Update on procedures and protocols for the May election

Actions on any underspend for 23/24

Further discussions on speed and safety in the village

The Chair confirm that an extraordinary meeting would be called if anybody came forward for co-option.

## **23.80 Public participation**

Members of the public thanked Councillors for various s137 awards (see minute 23.69).

It was confirmed that the bug hotel was still on the project list.

Meeting closed at 8:43pm