



Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of Stratton Parish Council

Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 7:00 pm in Stratton Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs Matt Garner, Simon Joslin and Beth Cooke

4 members of the public, Dorset Council Councillor David Taylor

25.23 Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Brad Pimm..

25.24 Declaration of Interests

No conflicting interests were declared.

25.25 Public Participation

There were no questions on agenda items, or urgent items raised by members of the public.

25.26 Co-Option of Councillors

1. The Council had received and duly considered applications for co-option to the post of councillor from Alison (Ali) Tong and Gill Slade.
2. Appointment of Ali Tong proposed by Cllr Joslin and seconded by Cllr Cooke. Cllr Ali Tong duly appointed.
3. Appointment of Gill Slade proposed by Cllr Cooke and seconded by Cllr Joslin. Cllr Gill Slade duly appointed.
4. Both new Councillors signed declarations of office and were formally welcomed to the Parish Council.
5. Cllr Garner to send link for Register of Interests to new Councillors.

Action MG

6. New Councillors to provide photo & short bio for inclusion on website.

Action AT & GS



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Vacant

25.27 Minutes of last Meetings

The published draft minutes for the meetings on 29 May and 14 June were approved.

25.21 Update on A37

Cllr Garner provided an update following the recent meeting that he & Cllr Taylor had with Dorset Highways.

Dorset Council was broadly in agreement that conflating the three issues of concern regarding the A37 was unhelpful. It was agreed that each would be treated individually – notwithstanding the intrinsic links between them.

- 1. Flooding** – this is the most complex issue to address. Whilst there remains the potential for a significant engineering project work is currently focussed on mitigation. Highways have been briefed to look at potential solutions to reduce water ingress from the stream. It is also possible that the temporary lights arrangement will be reviewed to reduce queuing when there is flooding. Dorset's environmental enforcement team are also contacting the landowner who seems to have built up banks of the river, which increases the level of water adjacent to the bridge. Work has also been undertaken on the drainage pipes & pumps.
- 2. Ice Build Up** – Highways confirmed that the PVMS (Illuminated Ice Warning sign) was deployed elsewhere during the winter of 23/24 following a review which identified a higher priority location. We are assured that this will not be the case for winter 24/25 and that deployment of the signage will be linked to the gritting schedule. Highways are also considering a temporary speed reduction.
- 3. Pedestrian Safety** – Cllrs Garner & Taylor reinforced the point that this is the biggest concern of residents. Our position was that statistically, with every vehicle that leaves the road, it becomes more likely that there will be a serious injury or fatality. Highways acknowledged this, however, the way the historic incidents had been recorded by the police do not help prioritise and improvement work. Our concerns were acknowledged, and we have been requested to help by providing whatever historic information we have to Highways.

Action – Cllr Slade



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4. **Follow-up** – a follow-up in person meeting has been arranged for 28 August. Cllrs Garner & Taylor will attend and report back.

25.22 Action Log Items

1. 24.5 IT etc. – Cllr Garner provide an update following a meeting with Government Digital team. There is a funded (up to £100+VAT) programme to help Parish Councils migrate to a .gov.uk domain. This is strongly recommended by Government Digital for all sorts of compliance & continuity reasons. Doing so would allow us to upgrade or replace the current website and email solution. Given the limitations and accessibility compliance concerns of the current website, as well as the limitations of our current email product, Cllr Garner suggested that we explore wholesale replacement as part of the migration. This was agreed. Action Cllr Garner
2. 24.8 Bug Hotel – remove from action log. No further action.
3. 24.10 Goal posts – Cllr Joslin has been in discussions with a local resident to have the 'new' posts professionally re-coated. Ongoing.
4. 24.11 Sign for Jubilee trees – Cllr Joslin will remind the person who has volunteered to install it.
5. 25.1 Memorials – Unknown Tommy, Cllr Garner has contacted the local business that had offered to fund to see if they are still interested. Will update.
6. 25.2 Policies – no progress to report.

25.23 Phone Box

1. The council thanked the four volunteers (Delphine Etches, Ken Hutchins, Pamela Clarke-Simpson & Jane Lang) who have offered to be the phone box lookerafterers (working title!).
2. Cllr Cooke volunteered to act as the council's coordinator.
3. Suggested that the group should decide on the future use of the phone box once it has had some TLC.
4. The council will provide materials etc and have the electrics checked.

25.24 Finance Report

No transactions to report.

25.25 Update on Clerk's Appointment

1. Cllrs Joslin & Garner reported that sadly, the individual we hoped would join us does not now feel able to due to other commitments.
2. Recruitment activity to be reviewed. Action Cllrs Joslin & Garner.

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL



Chair Matt Garner

Clerk Vacant

25.26 Correspondence

No significant correspondence to record.

25.27 Items for next meeting & future meeting dates

1. Next meeting agenda – A37, IT/Website
2. Dates – next meeting will now be 24 September, then as previously agreed, being, 12 November, 14 January & 11 March.

25.28 Public participation

Questions asked had been previously covered in the meeting & recorded above.

Meeting closed at 20:15