

STRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

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UNADOPTED

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council held in Stratton Village Hall on Tuesday 19th July 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present.

Cllr Slade, Cllr Aylott , Cllr Hobbs, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Richardson. WDD/Cllr Yarker
WDD/Cllr Horsington. DCC/Cllr J Haynes.

8 members of the public.

21/16 Welcome

The Chair welcomed all attendees.

22/16 Public Participation

The Chair invited members of the public to comment on any of the items on the agenda. She specifically invited D/Cllr Jill Haynes to provide an update on the issues regarding the ongoing problems with flooding under Stratton Bridge on the A37 as she had been involved with her in the discussions with DCC. Cllr Haynes commented that the County Council carried out extensive investigations of the drainage system following the most recent floods in June and found nothing wrong with the drainage systems in the locality. All the pumps were operating as they should and the floods were as a result of the intense rainfall and the power outage, which rendered the electric pump in-operable. The combination of this caused the flooding which in turn took several days to recover. The back-up diesel pump is able to cope with the volume of water if the electric pumps fail in normal conditions but not in excessive conditions as experienced that day. With regard to their attendance on site, they deployed a team as soon as they had available resources but were extremely busy during that afternoon.

D/Cllr Haynes also commented on the speed of traffic on the A37 which she felt was excessive, the outcome of the changes to youth centres, leading to 20 groups now being run voluntarily, and work being undertaken in DCC regarding integration with the NHS, particularly a new IT system.

Other comments made by members of the public included a plea to provide designated dog waste bins in the village. It was noted that the Council would need to get Dorset Waste Partnership to agree to empty them. Concerns were also raised regarding the amount of litter on the sides of the main roads, particularly obvious after grass cutting.

The Chair read out a letter from another resident, who had been unable to attend the meeting, regarding dog waste bins, which called for people to take their dog waste bags home with them. The letter also called for people not to leave dog waste in fields and farm paths where cattle graze as it can cause contamination for the cattle.

The issue of recent amendments to the 212 bus service was raised, which meant that older people with bus passes could not use them on the early bus. Cllr Haynes agreed to take this up with DCC. Also noted was the lack of grass cutting around the bus stop at Manor Close. The Clerk agreed to take this up with DCC.

23/16 Code of Conduct/Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded the Council of its agreed Code of Conduct and the need for Councillors to declare if they had any interest in any of the items to be discussed in the agenda which had not already been entered in the members' Register of Interests. There were none raised.

24/16 Apologies

Cllr Peter Hallett

25/16 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 17th May 2016

The Chair asked if there were any reasons why the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May should not be signed as a correct record of the proceedings. There were none stated and the Minutes were duly signed and dated.

26/16 Matters Arising

- (a) 81/16 Activities Fair – The Chair reported that there were now potentially 13 organisations who could be involved in an Activities Fair to showcase their activities to raise awareness and increase membership. It was agreed that this should now be booked for Saturday 8 October in the afternoon. The Chair agreed to book this and send out the invitations to relevant organisations and organise the publicity.
- (b) 14/16 Allotments – Cllr Andy Aylott reported that a letter had been sent to the Wrackleford Estate who had replied that they had contacted Savills to begin the process for the allotments.
- (c) Footpaths – Following on from previous work undertaken by Cllr Maureen Putnam, Cllr Andy Aylott reported that a letter had also been sent to the Wrackleford Estate to request consideration of a new permissive path to cross the fields to the north of the village to Muckleford. This had been rejected by the Estate.
- (d) 15/16 - Development at western end of Dorchester Road. The Chair reported that she had passed on to the relevant agencies all the concerns raised regarding this development, in particular those associated with the management of the contamination on the site. The Environment Agency had been identified as the lead agency on this matter and was gathering evidence. The Chair thanked John Cherry for his photographs of the burial pit for the Japanese Knotweed which will be used as evidence, and also thanked Colin Jackson for his recent photograph showing that the weed was growing again.
- (e) 18/16 Joint working with other local authorities. The Chair reported that in the first instance a message had been sent to Bradford Peverell Parish Council and they are discussing it with their members and a response is awaited. It was agreed that a similar message should be sent to other neighbouring parishes.
- (f) 91/15 Bus Service. Cllr Richardson commented further on the impact of recent changes to the 212 bus service which had sought to address the problems of children arriving late for school.
- (g) 13/16. Annual Village Spring Clean. The Chair reported on the Village Spring Clean which took place on 4th June. The work focussed on tidying up the village green area. Thanks were expressed to the helpers and the Chair also thanked Sheila Every for her continuing work on looking after the flower tubs at the entrances to the village, and to Pamela Clark-Simpson for her work in keeping the area around the Church and bus shelter tidy.

27/16 Councillors' duties

The Chair commented that there were two specific pieces of work that would benefit from Councillor oversight as specific duties.

- (a) Communication – It was resolved that Cllr Cheryl Hobbs would take on this responsibility to work with the Parish Clerk to oversee the information being communicated on the new Parish Council website.
- (b) Maintenance - It was resolved that Cllr Andy Aylott would take on responsibility of working with the Parish Clerk to review and manage the grounds maintenance contract.

28/16 Finance

(a) Financial Position as at 19th July 2016

The Clerk reported on the income and expenditure up to 19th July 2016

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

Accounts to 19th July 2016

Balance b/f	8854.28	34805.08	4243.28	-3926.98	43975.66
Receipts			878.00	3882.89	4760.89
Payments out	1337.07	343.54	20.00	-81.96	1782.57
Balance C/f	7517.21	34461.54	5101.28	126.05	46953.98

Payments In

VAT refund	3882.89
Bingo event	153.00
Adventure Play – Donations	725.00
Total	<u>4760.89</u>

Payments Out

Viking Direct – Stationery	47.62
Telephone & Broadband	62.50
DCC – Dog waste removal	2.57
Zurich Insurance	599.62
Wessex Grounds Maintenance	152.16
Clerks Salary	389.45
DCC – Removal of Dog Waste	8.86
DAPTC Subscription	209.06
Chalk Stream – Printing	12.50
Computer Repair	50.00
Playsafety – Rospa inspection	79.80
Wessex Grounds Maintenance	152.16
Chalk Stream – Printing	7.50
DCC – removal of dog waste	8.77
Total.	<u>1782.57</u>

Cllr. Aylott presented the budget report which showed that income and expenditure was as expected at this time of year and there were no overspends.

(b) Administration of Grants for 2016/17

As agreed at the meeting of the Parish Council on 3 November 2015, a draft set of criteria was presented to underpin the award of grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act. It was resolved that these should be accepted and that letters of notification should be sent out to organisations who have received grants in the past and also notices requesting applications should be posted on the website. A timescale should be set so that the applications for grants could be considered in one go. The Chair recommended that St John Ambulance who provided two volunteer First Aiders to be present at the Beacon event for HM Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations should be included in the list, and this was agreed.

(c) NALC Salary Award

The Clerk had circulated correspondence from the National Association of Local Councils on new pay scales for clerks for 2016/17 to apply from April 2016 and for 2017/18 to apply from 1 April 2017. This increase amounts to £3.60 per quarter. This was approved.

29/16 Adventure Play Area

Cllr Pete Jackson provided an update on the progress of fundraising and commissioning of the play equipment. He reported that in response to the recent request for donations, £840 had been raised, and he thanked everyone in the community who had donated. A number of recent fund-raising events had taken place, including a Bingo evening, running the toy stall at the Summer Fayre and also the cream teas, and a Fun Run. A car wash was planned for mid August and further cream teas for the Home and Garden Club and the Twinning Association. The equipment had now been ordered and it was anticipated that this would be installed in mid September. Cllr Jackson reported that £24,040.26 had been raised so far, leaving a balance of £3,596.74 to raise.

30/16 Speed of traffic

Cllr Cheryl Hobbs, on behalf of the working group on speeding through the village, reported that a response was awaited from the relevant Police contact with regard to their offer of a loan of a speed gun to undertake speed monitoring. 5 volunteers had come forward so far. Once discussions with the Police on the implications of introducing a CSW group have been held, that option together with various other options will be considered as the best way forward.

31/16 Requirements of new Transparency Regulations

Cllr Andy Aylott reported on the progress of the Audit requirements and that the relevant paperwork had been completed on time. Cllr Cheryl Hobbs reported on the progress with the development of the website and links to its Facebook page so that people could be alerted when new information was posted by the Council. Legal advice was that the Council needed to issue guidance regarding the Facebook page and this was being developed over the next few days. The Chair thanked both Councillors on behalf of the Council for all their hard work on these matters.

32/16 General Maintenance

The Chair reported that, due to the failure of the grounds maintenance team to return to do a second cut of the village green as requested just before the Summer Fayre, Cllr Peter Hallett had organised for someone to come and cut the grass. She thanked Cllr Hallett on behalf of the Council.

In Cllr Hallett's absence, Cllr Andy Aylott reported on the outcome of a recent RoSPA inspection of the children's playground on the village green and that one medium risk, bolts on the swings, had been tightened as necessary. He also reported on the progress of the repairs agreed at the previous meeting to the noticeboard at Grimstone and fencing around the playground. The noticeboards outside the village hall are next in line to be treated and the bus shelter at the eastern end of the village.

The Chair reported that she had been asked by a wheelchair user whether a dropped kerb could be installed at the eastern end of the village green to allow for level wheelchair access to the green. The slope from the village hall up on to the green is considered to be too steep for self-propelling wheelchair users. It was noted that planning permission would be required and other costs would be involved. It was agreed to investigate this matter further.

Cllr Aylott reported that there were two trees on Wrackleford Estate land that are damaged and are falling onto the recreation ground, while a third tree already dead is also in danger of falling over the fence line, and also the gully had not been cleared by the Estate. The Clerk was asked to write to the Estate again about this matter.

33/16 Planning Matters

The Clerk reported that no planning applications had been received in the period since the last meeting.

34/16 Highways

The Chair added to the earlier update provided by D/Cllr Haynes regarding the flooding under Stratton Bridge in response to the Parish Council's complaints to both DCC and Wessex Water. With regard to the overflow of sewage, Wessex Water had responded to say that they had conducted surveys to find out about infiltration into the sewer which had overwhelmed the system. This followed earlier surveys and repairs to the sewers at Muckleford which had had some success but it was acknowledged that this was still not resolved. There is now a plan for further CCTV investigations in the Autumn/Winter of this year to identify further lengths for lining and sealing. They are also going to be reviewing the sealing of the manhole just below the Wessex Water pumping station.

35/16 Correspondence

(a) Application for memorial on Village Green

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from David Downton on behalf of his local family with a request for a memorial for the Wrackleford Auxiliary Unit to be placed on the village green. He had done a presentation to a recent meeting of the History Group on this matter and the proposal was well received. It was agreed in principle that this request should be considered and that the shape and size of the memorial, together with an appropriate location on the green, should be investigated.

(b) Other

A letter had been received from the Centenary Fields programme which is seeking to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity in honour of the memory of the millions of people who lost their lives in World War 1. The letter invited the Council to nominate a recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field. It was resolved that consideration be given to this request in relation to the recreation ground and Cllr Jackson offered to look into this.

An e mail had been received confirming the outcome of the consultation on the mobile library service which meant that the service to residential homes is to continue but the public mobile library service is to end by December 2016. All individual users had been informed and general publicity had been circulated.

E mail notification had been received regarding a public consultation on the Registration Service, which is due to run until 11 August. Details are on dorsetforyou.

Cllr Jackson reported that he had received an e mail from a resident living in a property adjoining the recreation field who had raised concerns regarding overhanging trees. It was resolved that Cllr Aylott together with the Clerk would review this.

36/16 Items for the next agenda

There were no specific additional items to be added at this stage.

37/16 Public Participation

The Chair asked members of the public if they had any further comments to make. These included comments that it is inevitable that trees will grow and, with regard to the speeding issue, different views about the effectiveness of speed guns and whether the use of Speed Indicator Devices would be preferable. Concerns were raised about the drain at the entrance to Sawyers Lane which had become blocked and caused flooding on the road. The Clerk was asked to check this with Highways. Also comments were made that during the recent downpour, several of the gullies along the edge of the village green could not cope with the flow of water as they were blocked, and it was suggested that an article should be put in the Chalk Stream to ask residents to keep a look-out and clear away leaves and debris outside their homes.

38/16 Date of next meeting

20th September 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45 hrs

Keith Hawkins – Parish Clerk