

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 16th January 2017 at 7.30pm in St. Deny's Church, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. Mark Hawkesworth (Chairman); Cllr. Christopher Dent; Cllr. Harry Fullerton; Cllr. Jane Body; Mrs. Helen Pratt (Clerk); District Cllr. Graham Pask; District Cllr. Quentin Webb.

Parishioners: Mr. Edward Hanrahan.

Others: Gill Comley (Village Agents).

1. Apologies.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Dawn Bellin.

2. Open Session.

2.1. Village Agents – Gill Comley.

Gill Comley introduced the Village Agents service (www.villageagentswb.org.uk) to those present. It is run by the Volunteer Centre and aims to put socially isolated people in touch with the services / agencies they need. This service is mainly aimed at the elderly, enabling them to stay in their own homes for longer, but may also include single parents or the disabled.

Anyone is able to refer someone to Village Agents; a professional or a neighbour.

Once referred to Village Agents, the local Village Agent will contact the person concerned and offer to visit and signpost the services/agencies which may be of use.

All 26 of the Village Agents in West Berkshire are DBS checked. The nearest Village Agents to Stanford Dingley are in Bucklebury and Beenham.

The main requirement for Village Agents is that they have common sense and like people. Village Agents have an initial 2 days of training followed by ongoing training. The aim is that they spend approximately 2 to 3 hours a week volunteering. There is a support group for the volunteers.

The Parish Council will post notices and seek candidates who may be interested in becoming a Village Agent for Stanford Dingley.

Ms. Comley was thanked for her time to attend the meeting.

3. Declaration of Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of meetings held on Monday 3rd October 2016

4.1 Approval of the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2 To consider matters arising from the minutes:

4.2.1 Letter to Parishioners about the Outcome of the Costs Assessment on the Legal Bill.

Cllr. Hawkesworth reported that the letter had been delivered to all houses in the parish; no responses have been received.

4.2.2 Kennels at The Old Boot.

Richard Beech, the WBC Enforcement officer has said that officers have visited the site and given the information available at the time, do not see that there is a breach in planning.

It was noted that Mr. Gray is unable to use land surrounding The Old Boot's premises for the training of dogs. It is estimated that up to 15 dogs are sometimes at the site, creating a noise nuisance for everyone nearby and particularly to the west (Fairholme Farm and Boot Cottage). Dogs barking and crying during the night are causing sleep disruption to local residents. District Cllr. Pask commented that local

knowledge is paramount and that disturbance caused by barking dogs is an Environmental Health issue. Everyone affected should be encouraged to report the problem and keep a log of the issues. A log was reported, but destroyed when the resident who had made the log moved to another house within the village. Reference was made to the facility being used as a boarding kennels; any evidence of this needs to be passed to the WBC Enforcement. It is understood that reports about the animal care and husbandry at the site have been made to the RSPCA. It was agreed that SDPC would write to Richard Beech about activities at The Old Boot with the additional information.

CD

4.2.3 Village Field Maintenance.

Cllr. Hawkesworth has suggested that the field is cut 5-6 times a year and rolled. Cllr. Hawkesworth has asked Andrew Waters to maintain the field and will meet with him in the spring to discuss any other suggestions which might improve the grass. In the past Mr. Waters has charged £45 to cut the field, so it was suggested that £350 should be put in the budget for next year for field maintenance.

5. Clerk's Report

5.1 Finances

5.1.1 Financial Statement.

The Clerk had circulated a financial statement, which was approved by those present.

5.1.2 Budget.

To consider contribution to WBC for library provision.

WBC has written to all the parishes of West Berkshire and asked them to make a contribution (of approximately £1.00 per parishioner) to maintain the library service under one of three different proposals.

SDPC is in favour of maintaining the library service.

The Clerk informed councillors that BALC has advised that as the proposal currently stands, SDPC does not have the legal power to contribute towards the libraries. That doesn't prevent SDPC from putting the money in the budget and awaiting a new proposal from WBC to which SDPC can contribute.

It was agreed that £195 should be included in the budget for libraries.

To consider a contribution to the West Berkshire Countryside Society (WBCS).

A donation to the WBCS of £200 in view of the work carried out by the society which benefits the parish was unanimously agreed.

To ratify the budget for FY17/18.

There was a discussion around the figures for the improvements being made to the Clubroom and once changes had been made to reflect the relevant timings, the budget for FY17/18 was unanimously approved (see end of minutes).

To ratify the precept for FY17/18.

It was unanimously agreed that the precept should be reduced to £5,000.

5.3 Correspondence.

The following correspondence has been received:

5.3.1 Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Redesign Consultation.

5.3.2 WBC – SID training – 8th February 2017.

5.3.3 Defibrillator Awareness Session – Thursday 19th January 2017.

Cllr. Belling and Cllr. Hawkesworth are booked to attend this session.

5.3.4 District Parish Conference – Tuesday 21st March 2017.

Cllr. Hawkesworth will attend the District Parish Conference.

5.3.5 CCB Affordable Housing in 2017 – Tuesday 21st February 2017.

SDPC is keen to be more informed on affordable housing and Cllr. Hawkesworth and Cllr. Belling will attend this session.

5.3.6 West Berkshire Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) – Call for Sites.

District Cllr. Pask commented that the Planning Inspector has now looked at the draft Local Plan and has asked for more information in some areas resulting in minor changes. A consultation on these minor changes is now ongoing and will be complete at the end of January 2017. The resulting Local Plan should be ratified at the full WBC meeting in May. In the meantime, the process needs to start again for the subsequent Local Plan for development through to 2036 and hence the new call for sites.

District Cllr. Pask also commented that affordable housing needs to be in sustainable locations.

5.3.7 Update from the Upper Tribunal re assessment of Tilbrook's costs.

The Clerk reported that following the assessment from the Senior Cost Courts Office and the out of court settlement with Tillbrook, the Upper Tribunal had reassessed the costs of the case. It is assumed that this is an error and SDPC's Costs Lawyer has responded to the Upper Tribunal indicating that the case has been settled and there is a sealed consent order already in place.

6. Planning.

6.1 Planning applications to be considered:

6.1.1 16/02913/HOUSE – 82 Stanford Dingley.

Two storey extension to eastern elevation. Widening of existing dormer window on northern elevation. Construction of new dormer windows to the northern and southern elevations. Relocating the back door further along the northern elevation. Replacing two windows with French doors on the southern elevation.

SDPC had **no objection** to this application.

It is understood that the applicant has been asked to reduce the size of the extension.

6.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

6.2.1 16/02441/FULD – Saffron House.

Demolition of existing barn and construction of a dwelling.

SDPC had **no objection** to this application; however, it has been **withdrawn**.

6.2.2 16/01784/FUL – Bushnells Green Farmhouse (Adjacent Parish).

Erection of a new agricultural barn.

SDPC made **no comments** on this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

6.2.3 16/01782/FULD – Bushnells Green Farmhouse (Adjacent Parish).

Retention of existing timber lodge as farm worker accommodation. Non compliance with condition 12 of approval 13/03014/FUL.

SDPC **supported** this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

6.2.4 16/01511/FULD – Kings Copse Bungalow (Adjacent Parish).

Section 73: Variation of Condition 2 – Plans approved, of approved application 16/00172/FULD – Replacement bungalow.

SDPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

6.2.5 16/00650/FULD – Land adjacent to Middle Cottage.

New 3 bedroom house and demolition of foundations of extant scheme as well as foundation of earlier buildings remaining on site.

SDPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

6.3 Proposals for Fairholme Farm (for information only).

The meeting was **closed** for Mr. Hanrahan to speak.

Mr. Hanrahan said that he has submitted a planning application to WBC which is currently awaiting registration. Mr. Hanrahan purchased Fairholme Farm 18 months ago and received a copy of the Stanford Dingley Design Statement, the contents of which he has considered in making this application. He would like to make some changes to the property and improve its thermal efficiency. The building is built using

3 different types of brick; the proposal has a finish of render and weatherboarding.
Cllr. Hawkesworth thanked Mr. Hanrahan for attending the meeting, sharing his plans and using the Design Statement.

The meeting was **reopened**.

7. Reports:

7.1 Activities Committee.

The Race Night held at The Boot was very successful; all the tickets were sold. Thanks were extended to all those who helped with the event, particularly Hilary Dent and John Haley.

The Christmas Post Box received a lot of support, all those who helped, particularly the children who delivered the post, were thanked.

Sixteen children attended the successful Christmas Party at The Bull which included a visit from Santa. Thanks were given to Laura Maton, Charlie Hartley and Dawn Belling for organizing the event.

Other events being discussed include a summer picnic, a theatre trip and a Christmas 2017 choral event.

Recently, the Activities Committee has nominated a charity who will receive money at the end of the year. It has been agreed that this year, the charity will be the Friends of St. Denys', providing charity status has been obtained and a bank account has been set up in order to receive the donation.

7.1.2 Village Play Area.

Felicity Routlege from Tutts Clump has stated that her legal colleague had agreed with her that there is still uncertainty about whether play equipment would contravene the Covenant on the Village Field. Only those who are beneficiaries of the Covenant could object on these grounds. Although it is questionable that play equipment could be considered a 'building', case law suggests that this may not be the case. This will be re-considered at the early spring meeting.

Pea Brodhurst had contacted the committee suggesting the installation of a 'mound' for children to play on. All of the Activities Committee agreed that this was a good idea. This will be considered in the spring, alongside other suggestions, once the Village Field is in better condition (see Minute 4.2.3).

7.2. Dredge Gang.

Cllr. Hawkesworth reported that on the 8th October the Dredge Gang cleared the Pang downstream from The Mill. There was a good turnout and it is evident that the annual maintenance is improving the overall condition of the river over the section that is maintained.

The second meeting on 3rd December was to clear the leaves at the churchyard and village green. The leaves were reasonably dry so that the collection of leaves proved easier than in previous years. However, there were slightly fewer volunteers.

The next meeting to clear road drains, grips and ditches within the village is set for 25th February at 10.30am. A further meeting to clear litter (per Clean for the Queen in 2016) may be scheduled for April.

7.3 Highways Maintenance & Potholes.

Cllr. Hawkesworth reported that there are no current issues with the highways. The recent resurfacing of Jennetts Hill and through the village should reduce the number of potholes, but given the wet road surfaces and the frost, more potholes are likely to appear. It was requested that any potholes are reported to WBC with a clear location and their size (breadth and depth).

7.4 Footpaths.

Whilst not in the parish, a cracked manhole cover on bridleway BRAD/26/1 (which runs from Back Lane to the Monet bridge at Frogmore Farm) has been reported to WBC.

7.5 Flooding.

Cllr. Hawkesworth reported that since the last meeting, 60 FloodSax have been purchased. The Mill and Bridge Cottage have purchased an addition 40 FloodSax. There is now an agreed protocol for operating The Mill sluice.

There have been ongoing problems at the sewer pumping station (SPS); one of the two pumps has been in for repair for three months. However, Thames Water has been effective in bringing in road tankers when wet well alarms have been triggered (as has happened on two occasions over the last eight weeks). A report is awaited from Thames Water on the problems at the SPS and the works to reduce water ingress into the sewer. Unfortunately, since the works have been completed, water is still entering the sewer system.

The PVFF website has been updated and is well worth looking at:

www.floodalleviation.co.uk. The next PVFF meeting is on the 24th January.

WBC has taken three months to clear two grips along Burnt Hill Road; these grips drain surface water from the road and prevent flooding. The clearance of these grips has to be done every year, and every year the work is requested. There has been no other flooding in the parish so far this winter.

7.7 Website.

Work on the development of the website is ongoing.

Holly Lombardo is working to resolve the permissions problem, experienced by the Clerk when attempting to put documents on the website. As soon as this work is complete Cllr. Body will inform the Clerk.

JB

8. Club Room.

8.1 To Receive an Update on the Improvements

Work is progressing well. On Saturday 14th January, the new ceiling was put up. Having received more funding than initially expected from Greenham Common Trust, West Berkshire Council have requested to have some of their funding returned. Cllr. Dent has worked with West Berkshire Council (Jo Naylor) and will be submitting a grant request for Phase 2 of the project, which will hopefully be awarded a grant equal to the amount they requested be returned.

9. Re-boot/Plunkett Foundation.

Stuart Logan has contacted SDPC to inform the council that the members of Re-Boot have had a meeting and voted to dissolve the Community Business Society (formed with the aim of purchasing The Old Boot). This decision was made because it was felt that over the last couple of years the infrastructure priorities in Stanford Dingley have evolved and the community's focus is now directed elsewhere.

10. Speeding Traffic.

A complaint has been received by SDPC that a mother with a pushchair was nearly run down by a speeding car going through the village. It was suggested that the registration number of vehicles driving dangerously through the village should be reported to the Police.

Wheelie bin stickers were considered, but were thought to urbanise the village too much. Signs with "Slow Down" were proposed at the entrances to the village, but it was estimated that these would cost in the region of £6,000. It was suggested that signs could be put up on the pub car park exists; Cllr. Body will talk to the publicans about the possibility of doing this.

JB

14. Date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Council and be held on Monday 3rd April 2017. The venue needs to be confirmed as the Clubroom may be unavailable.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Stanford Dingley Parish Council

Budget FY 17/18

	Budget FY16/17	To 13/1/17	Expected EOY	Budget FY17/18
Audit Fee	-	25.00	25.00	200.00
Clerk's Salary	1,500.00	1,474.36	1,474.36	1,500.00
Clerk's Reimbursements	50.00	-	20.00	20.00
Insurance (includes Club Room)	450.00	417.44	417.44	500.00
Payroll	120.00	42.50	42.50	60.00
Village Green	200.00	700.00	900.00	200.00
Village Field	400.00	-	-	350.00
Admin/Contingency	500.00	116.52	116.52	200.00
Election Expenses	-	-	-	-
Tilbrooks costs	15,000.00	13,000.00	13,000.00	-
Costs draftsman	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Website/IT	-	366.83	363.83	200.00
Training	-	40.00	40.00	80.00
Library contribution to WBC	-	-	-	195.00
Annual Subscriptions				
S.L.C.C.	50.00	-	-	-
B.A.L.C.	50.00	43.17	43.17	50.00
C.P.R.E.	30.00	36.00	36.00	46.00
C.C.B.	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
CBAS	155.00	135.83	135.83	155.00
Club Room				
Rates	-	-	-	-
Cleaning	-	-	-	-
Electricity	175.00	165.92	165.92	175.00
Maintenance	250.00	81.00	81.00	60.00
S.137 PAYMENTS				
WBCS	200.00	-	200.00	200.00
Bradfield PCC (NewsLink)	50.00	-	50.00	50.00
Pangbourne PC (floodsax)	-	434.52	434.52	-
OPEN STUDIOS 2007/08	-	-	-	-
West Berks CAB	-	-	-	-
Air Ambulance	-	-	-	-
Total	21,210.00	18,109.09	18,576.09	4,271.00
Club Room Capital Expenditure				
Refurbishment (Phase 1)	-	2,063.57	15,255.00	-
Refurbishment (Phase 2)	-	-	-	5,000.00
Club Room Total	-	2,063.57	15,255.00	5,000.00
TOTAL	21,210.00	20,172.66	33,831.09	9,271.00
VAT paid		817.74	2,817.74	1,500.00
Grand Total		20,990.40	36,648.83	10,771.00
Balances at bank	31/12/2105	13/01/2017	Expected EOY	
Treasurers Account	4066.26	23,910.80	8,252.37	
Business Instant	7980.25	482.45	482.45	
	12046.51	24,393.25	8,734.82	
Ring fenced for the Clubroom			5,000.00	
Cash to carry forwards:			3,734.82	
Receipts	FY 115/16	To 13/1/2017	Expected EOY	FY 17/18
Precept	5,000.00	11,500.00	11,500.00	5,000.00
Clubroom hire	110.00	80.00	150.00	150.00
Grants	-	-	-	-
Grants for Clubroom refurb	-	20,255.00	20,255.00	-
Admin	501.31	17.20	17.20	10.00
VAT Claim	458.11	-	2,000.00	1,500.00
Interest	0.48	0.53	0.60	-
TOTAL	6,069.90	31,852.73	33,922.80	6,660.00
Precept:				
2017 Precept - £5,000				
2016 Precept - £11,500				
2015 Precept - £5,000				
2014 Precept - £3,750				
2013 Precept - £3,750				
2012 Precept - £3,250				

Signed:

Date: