

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm in St. Denys' Church, Stanford Dingley.**

**Present:** Cllr. Mark Hawkesworth; Cllr. Christopher Dent; Cllr. Harry Fullerton; Cllr. Dawn Bellin; Mrs. Helen Pratt (Clerk); District Cllr. Graham Pask; District Cllr. Quentin Webb.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Jane Body.

**2. Open Session.**

There were no matters raised during the Open Session.

**3. Declaration of Interests.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.**

**4.1 Appointment of Chairman.**

Cllr. Bellin proposed that Cllr. Hawkesworth be elected to the position of Chairman; this was seconded by Cllr. Fullerton and unanimously agreed.

**4.2 Acceptance of Office.**

Cllr. Hawkesworth signed the acceptance of office as Chairman of Stanford Dingley Parish Council.

**4.3 Appointment of Vice Chairman.**

Cllr. Hawkesworth proposed that Cllr. Dent be elected to the position of Vice Chairman of Stanford Dingley Parish Council; this was seconded by Cllr. Bellin and unanimously agreed.

**5. Minutes of meetings held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**5.1 Approval of the minutes.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**5.2 To consider matters arising from the minutes:**

**5.2.1 Kennels at The Old Boot.**

There have been two separate issues with the kennels at the Old Boot. First the noise of the dogs mainly affecting the properties to the west of The Old Boot, but in particular Boot Cottage and Fairholme Farm, and secondly concern has been raised over the conditions under which the dogs are kept.

John Haley (the Landlord) has requested a meeting with those affected by the dogs. It is understood that the dogs are putting people off going into the pub garden. Cllr. Hawkesworth commented that he has a prejudicial interest in the matter and asked that two other parish councillors attend the meeting. Mr. Hanrahan (Fairholme Farm) will be away until the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, but would like to send a statement to the meeting, or attend if it is held after he returns. Cllr. Dent agreed to attend the meeting with Cllr. Fullerton. Cllr. Hawkesworth will ensure that other interested parties are invited to attend the meeting.

Cllr. Dent commented that he had written to the Environmental Health Department and the Licensing Departments of WBC. The Environmental Health Department are understood to be investigating the situation. District Cllr. Pask reinforced the importance of residences keeping a log as evidence of the problem.

**5.2.2 Village Agents.**

After Gill Comley talked about the role of Village Agents at the last parish council meeting, notices have been displayed on the noticeboards asking for volunteers.

### 5.2.3 Defibrillator.

Heartstart Thatcham has set up a “JustGiving” page for a defibrillator in Stanford Dingley and this has raised approximately £600 to date. Heartstart Thatcham may also be able to find some funds to contribute to a defibrillator for Stanford Dingley. It is hoped that it will be possible to have a defibrillator installed by the end of the year. There was a brief discussion about possible locations, however placing them on listed buildings is best avoided.

The importance of training was noted and it was agreed that this needs to be encouraged amongst parishioners.

### 5.2.4 Website.

There was no update on the website in Cllr. Body’s absence.

### 5.2.5 Speeding Traffic.

Cllr. Body agreed at the last parish council meeting to speak to the pub Landlords about signs on the carpark exists asking drivers to slow down or drive carefully.

## 6. Clerk’s Report

### 6.1 Finances

#### 6.1.1 **Financial Statement.**

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

### 6.3 Correspondence.

The following correspondence has been received:

#### 6.3.1 **County Court Pre –Application Protocol Letter.**

Mr. Alderton, the applicant of planning applications 16/01056/FUL and Certificate of Lawfulness 16/03377/CERT for Ivinghoe is claiming his legal costs associated with the Certificate of Lawfulness application; the claim is for £9,999 from Stanford Dingley Parish Council and a parishioner. The claim arises out of comments relating to the former orchard on this site and this being deemed incorrectly as being outside the curtilage. The Parish Council responded on 29<sup>th</sup> March stating that it could see no valid cause of action against it.

The Clerk has sought advice from BALC, WBC, the SLCC, and Zurich Insurance under the Parish Council’s policy. The Clerk has opened a claim with Zurich’s legal insurers and is awaiting advice from them.

Concern was raised whether parishioners may be open to threat or legal action when commenting on planning applications. There followed a discussion about whether comments can be submitted anonymously to WBC and what information WBC might have to disclose under a Freedom of Information request. The Clerk will contact WBC HP and clarify the situation.

## 7. Planning.

### 7.1 Planning applications to be considered:

#### 7.1.1 **16/03585/HOUSE – Fairholme Farm.**

*Alterations and extensions to existing house and outbuildings.*

SDPC **supported** this application.

#### 7.1.2 **17/00510/HOUSE – Blossom Cottage (former Stanford Farm Barns).**

*Construction of a detached three-bay garage/carport.*

SDPC **objected** to this application.

#### 7.1.3 **16/03640/FULD - Land adjacent to Middle Cottage.**

*Section 73A: Variation of condition (2) approved plans of approved application 16/00650/FULD: New 3-bedroom house and demolition of foundations of extant scheme as well as foundations of earlier buildings remaining on site.*

SDPC **supported** this application subject to the garage being moved to the NW side of

the land.

7.1.4 16/03377/CERT – Ivinghoe.

*Use of garden land.*

SDPC made factual comments on the land.

7.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

7.2.1 **16/03585/HOUSE – Fairholme Farm.**

*Alterations and extensions to existing house and outbuildings.*

SDPC **supported** this application.

This application **cannot be determined** by WBC due to technicalities over whether some of the development falls outside the curtilage.

7.2.2 **16/03377/CERT – Ivinghoe.**

*Use of garden land.*

SDPC made factual comments on the land.

WBC has determined that the Certificate of Lawfulness is **legal**.

7.2.3 **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 **supported** this application which was **approved** by WBC with an amendment reducing the size of the extension.

**8. Reports:**

8.1 District Councillors Report.

District Councillors raised the recent District Parish Conference and the new WBC website which has been launched on devolution of services to the parish councils. Enforcement was also discussed and this is a non-statutory service. Resources dedicated to enforcement are limited and as a result individual reports on enforcement issues must be prioritised.

The District Councillors reported that the proposal for the electoral review of the District Council Wards has now been submitted. Under the current proposal, Stanford Dingley would remain in Bucklebury Ward, but with Bucklebury, Midgham and Woolhampton parishes, represented by only one District Councillor.

8.2 Activities Committee.

The following activities are currently planned: an Easter Egg Hunt on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, a village picnic with a BBQ and games to be held on the village field on 10<sup>th</sup> June, the Cabbage competition on 8<sup>th</sup> October and a Race Night on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. Plans are being discussed for an outing to the Theatre Royal in Windsor, a cricket match of Stanford Dingley verses Tutts Clump and joining up with the Friends of St. Deny's for a concert.

A donation of £2,366 has been made to the Friends of St. Deny's.

8.2.1 Play Equipment.

It has been decided that the best option would be a log tangle supplied by Earth Wrights at a cost £2,000 (excluding VAT and delivery). This price includes installation.

Hilary Dent has sent a detailed email to all the beneficiaries of the covenant on the Village Field and interested parties on the design of this small structure; the response has been positive. She has also investigated all aspects of planning, and legal implications.

8.3. Dredge Gang.

The Dredge Gang cleared all the storm drains and ditches in the village on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

#### 8.4 Highways Maintenance & Potholes.

It is unknown quite what the impact of Gigaclear laying their cables in the roads of Stanford Dingley will be, but the service should be operational in August 2017. District Councillors asked whether there had been a noticeable difference to traffic on the local roads due to Dark Lane and Ashampstead Road being closed at the M4 bridges; an insignificant amount of additional traffic has been noticed.

#### 8.5 Footpaths.

A complaint was made to WBC from a parishioner over the stile at Footpath STAN 9 (which on inspection, is in good condition). Apparently, the footpath used to run from the gate to the north of the stile but was moved in the 1960's. The gate is padlocked to prevent illegal entry from travellers. The field in question is used by the clay pigeon club. WBC decided that we should investigate whether there was any record of the change of footpath in our records.

WBC has now fixed the hole in the drain on bridleway BRAD26 (in Bradfield Parish). It has been reported to WBC that Byway 23 is very muddy and deep ruts have appeared caused by horses and off road vehicles. It is very difficult to pass in either direction. WBC has said they will investigate.

It has been noted that many of the gates on Mr. Hartley Russell's land are in bad condition and some are tied with string. These gates are in constant use by farmers so it might be possible to solicit their help in fixing them.

The number of dog poo bags which are found hanging from trees and bushes has become very noticeable again

A mattress has been dumped by footpath STAN 10, opposite Mazelands Farm.

#### 8.6 Flooding.

Water ingress into the sewer is still a problem and Thames Water hasn't identified the root cause of the problem. Meanwhile, the pumps are continually blocking due to materials in the sewer putting them out of action. As a result, tankers are having to remove the flow.

### 9. Club Room.

#### 9.1 To Receive an Update on the Improvements.

To date, the structural work has been completed; the old front door has been opened and the side door bricked up, all the doorframes are complete, plaster boarding and plastering have all been done (above the dado rail), first fix plumbing and electrics have been completed and the parquet floor has been repaired and reinstated in the hall in readiness for the new kitchen.

The remaining tasks are: install the wall cladding and skirting board (below the dado rail), install the ceiling lighting and remaining electrical works, hang the new front and back doors, build, finish and protect the porch floor, sand, finish and protect the hall floor, glazing and clean up.

Some items have come in on less than the projected budget and some items more; there is currently £1,250 surplus in the project (amounting to 4% of the total cost), but this could change very quickly. If a shortfall should occur, local donors including the Parish Council, the Activities Committee and villagers may need to be sought.

Reopening in May is now looking unlikely due to several key people being unavailable over the next few weekends.

### 10. Affordable Housing.

Cllr. Bellin and Cllr. Hawkesworth attended an information session on Affordable Housing. It was agreed that if affordable housing is required in Stanford Dingley, the

best route may be to approach Donnington Trust who own some of the surrounding land. It was questioned whether there was sufficient need for housing by rural workers need in Stanford Dingley.

**11. Parish Assembly – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

It is now looking unlikely that the Clubroom will be available for the Parish Assembly on May 15<sup>th</sup>. As a result, it will be held in St. Denys' Church.

Fliers advertising the event will be distributed through the parish and refreshments will be provided.

It was suggested that communication between the Parish Council and Parishioners could be improved and that the Assembly should be more interactive.

**12. Date of next meeting:**

Assembly – 7.30pm, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in St. Deny's Church.

SDPC – 7.30pm, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (location to be confirmed).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT