

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. Mark Hawkesworth; Cllr. Christopher Dent; Cllr. Dawn Bellin; Cllr. Harry Fullerton; Mrs. Helen Pratt (Clerk).

Others: District Cllr. Graham Pask; District Cllr. Quentin Webb.

1. Apologies.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interests.

2.1 Updates to the Register of Interests

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

2.2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any of the agenda items.

3. To approve the minutes of the following meetings:

3.1 Monday 2nd October 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 2nd October 2017 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

3.2 Extra Ordinary Meeting on Monday 6th November 2017.

It was resolved that the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on Monday 6th November 2017 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

3.3 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only.

3.3.1 Defibrillators - The defibrillator is understood to belong to Stanford Dingley PC. Andy McKenzie and Cllr. Hawkesworth have been carrying out the weekly inspections.

At the last meeting, Cllr. Body was strongly of the opinion that there should be a second defibrillator in Stanford Dingley. In Cllr. Body's absence, it was agreed that this item should remain as pending.

3.3.2 Car Parking – Members of the PCC will be discussing the need for additional parking at their next meeting. Additional parking is required for busy services and big events. The village field could potentially be made available, but there needs to be consideration given to maintaining the surface of the slope, which provides access to the field.

4. Clerk's Report

4.1 Finances

4.1.1 To receive the Financial Statement.

The Clerk circulated a financial statement showing all payments and credits since the last meeting and a balance of £3,415.60 once all transactions have cleared; this was approved.

4.1.2 To determine the contribution to WBC for libraries.

WBC recommended a contribution of £195 from Stanford Dingley PC in order to support the WB libraries.

The Clerk advised councillors that any contribution would be under S137 and must therefore be commensurate to the benefit obtained by parishioners. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would make a contribution of £195 to WB library service.

- 4.1.3 **Application to the Transparency Fund for a Laptop and printer/scanner.**
It was resolved that the Clerk make an application for £1,460 for a Parish Council laptop, a printer/scanner and some funding for training and setting up the Parish Council part of the site from the Transparency Fund in order to comply with the Transparency Code.
- 4.2 Budget for FY18/19.
- 4.2.1 **To ratify the budget for FY18/19.**
The Clerk had circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting. There was discussion on some figures in order to ensure that there was no increase in the precept. A budget for FY 18/19 was unanimously agreed.
- 4.2.2 **To ratify the precept for FY18/19.**
It was unanimously agreed to raise a precept of £5,000 for FY18/19, this being the same as FY17/18.
5. **Planning.**
- 5.1 Enforcement.
It was noted that the two storage containers in the car park of The Old Boot are still in situ; planning permission for them was refused in August 2017.
- 5.2 The River Pang.
Cllr. Dent reported that the river is very overgrown between the bridge and Rushall Farm. There are plans for the trees and brambles to be cut back. This work is being carried out in consultation with the West Berkshire Countryside Society.
6. **District Councillors Report**
District Cllr. Pask reported that WBC has been selected to be part of a pilot authority to keep an additional two million pounds of business rates which are paid by local businesses.
The recommendations from the Boundary Commission for the West Berkshire ward arrangements should be published this month.
7. **Reports**
- 7.1 Activities Committee.
During October, Peter Trentham and Hilary Dent organised the Walking Stick competition and Tania Kane organised Trick or treating for the children.
In November there was a very successful race night (organised by Hilary Dent) held in The Old Boot which raised £820; half of this was given to Friends of St. Denys'.
A Christmas party with a magician, tea, Father Christmas and presents was thoroughly enjoyed by 21 children.
The Christmas Post was very successfully delivered by Tania Kane and her little helpers.
A carol service was held in St. Denys' with mince pies and mulled wine outside The Bull afterwards; this was organised by Holly Lombardo and friends.
Thanks were extended to all those who have organised events for residents.
Events planned for the future include an Easter egg hunt, a village picnic, an auction, sheep racing and a race night.
After many years of committed hard work, Jilly Hawkesworth has retired as Treasurer. On behalf of the Village, the Activities Committee have thanked her for all she has done. Hilary Dent has kindly agreed to take over.
Some of the work to organise fund raisers will be shared with the Friends of St. Denys'.
- 7.2 Dredge Gang.
Two successful work parties have been held by the dredge gang; one to clear debris from the river in October and a second in December to sweep leaves. Stephen Brown in particular was thanked for his work cutting the Village Green.
A work party to clear the road drains and grips on Jennets Hill, and to carry out a litter

pick was suggested for a future work party.

The Dredge Gang was nominated for the WBC Community Group of the year award.

7.3 Highways Maintenance and Potholes.

Generally, the roads were considered to be in a reasonable state. Flooding has been occurring in the dip in the road, north of Mazelands Farm.

7.4 Rights of Way.

It was noted that the majority of the footpaths are very muddy.

Some issues were raised with the route of the footpath from the Blue Pools to Tutts Clump / Rotten Row. Whilst not in Stanford Dingley Parish, the Clerk will look into this with the footpaths officer at WBC.

7.5 Flooding.

Cllr. Hawkesworth reported that since the new Flygt pumps have been installed there has not been any sewer flooding in Stanford Dingley.

There is a meeting of the Pang Valley Flood Forum on 23rd January.

7.6 Website.

Holly Lombardo, who has developed and maintained the Stanford Dingley website, sent an email at the beginning of October, saying that she no longer had the time to dedicate to the website. Suggested names to replace Holly and a draft agenda for a handover meeting had been drawn up but the meeting has yet to be held. It was agreed that Cllr. Dent would organise a meeting to consider ways forwards.

8. The Club Room.

The current committee for the Club Room is as follows: Cllr. Dent (Chairman for the first six months only), Cllr. Fullerton (Community usage), Anne Chessum (Community usage), Barry Poitier (Finance), Natalie Beresford-Bolton (External Marketing), Paul Lemm (Finance) and Aisling Bucknell (Operations). Their first meeting was on the 11th December.

The initial electricity usage was very high; this has been reduced by turning off the 4 main hall heaters, the water heater and the fridge, leaving one small heater on.

Electricity usage is now being monitored more closely. There was the suggestion of looking into setting up a bank account for the Clubroom; the Clerk raised concerns about this as all income and expenditure needs to be managed and approved by the Parish Council.

During the first four months to the end of January, there have been nine events raising £310 in hire charges.

The facility is now registered on the WBC register of Halls. Adverts will be in Newslink from February onwards.

9. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 16th April at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Date: