

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 16th April 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.

Apologies of absence were received and approved from Cllr. J. Body.

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. Election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

3.1 Appointment of a Chairman.

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

3.2 Acceptance of Office.

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

3.3 Appointment of a Vice Chairman

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

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting on the 15th January 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15th January 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

4.1 Matters arising from the minutes – for information only.

4.1.1 Defibrillators – It was agreed that a second defibrillator is not a priority at the current time. However, training courses should be advertised, and parishioners encouraged to attend.

5. Clerk's Report

5.1 Finances

5.1.1 To receive the Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement, circulated to members prior to the meeting was approved.

5.1.2 To determine the contribution to WBC for libraries.

It was agreed that the contribution of £195 for libraries allocated in FY17/18 should be paid to WBC.

5.1.3 Application to the Transparency Fund for a Laptop and printer/scanner.

The Clerk reported that the Stanford Dingley Parish Council has £1,460 from the Transparency fund for IT facilities.

5.2 Correspondence.

5.2.1 Request from Rev. J. Gadsby re parking on the Village Field.

It was agreed that parking in the Village Field is not a problem except when the weather is wet. It was agreed that the Parish Council should reserve the right to decline parking should it become necessary.

There was a discussion about the possibility of improving the entrance, possibly with the use of permeable plastic paver or something similar to prevent erosion of the surface and to stop vehicles getting stuck.

Work is required on the gate to secure the Village Field.

It was noted that since the closure of St. Andrew's in Bradfield, baptisms, weddings and funerals in the benefice have to be held in St. Denys and require additional parking.

Alternative fields for parking were discussed, but were viewed as unsuitable for various reasons.

Cllr. Fullerton will write a holding letter to the Rev. Gadsby.

HF

5.2.2 **Notice of Hearing re Alderton.**

The Clerk advised councillors that there is a Court Hearing where any costs incurred by Bucklebury Parish Council, Stanford Dingley Parish Council and Mr. Logan (the defendants) prior to Mr. Alderton (the Claimant) discontinuing his claim will be considered. The Court Hearing is scheduled to take place on 25th July 2018. It was noted that Stanford Dingley Parish Council did not incur any costs.

6. **Review of Corporate Documents.**

It was resolved that no changes were required to the Statement of Governance, the Standing Orders or the Code of Conduct.

7. **Planning.**

7.1 **Planning Decisions made by WBC.**

There are currently no planning applications in Stanford Dingley awaiting determination.

7.2 **Update on Storage Containers.**

The storage containers in the car park of The Boot have now been removed. The container at Bramble Cottage has been purchased by the owner for the storage of vintage motorbikes. District Cllr. Pask was asked to find out how long a container can stay in situ before its position can no longer be challenged. Once this is known, Cllr. Hawkesworth will have a conversation with the owner.

GP
MH

8. **District Councillors Report**

District Cllr. Webb reported that 93% of primary school children have been allocated places at their preferred choice of school.

District Cllr. Pask encouraged councillors to report pot holes via the WBC website. There are still significant funds from the central government pot hole fund to complete this work. An additional £50,000,000 over the next five years has been received for highways work.

It was reported that Harts Hill Road (Upper Bucklebury to Thatcham) will be closed for up to six months for the replacement of a water main.

9. **Reports**

9.1 **Activities Committee.**

A well-attended Easter Egg hunt was held on 22nd March in the gardens of Peter Trentham's house.

Events being planned include the Village Picnic on the 9th June, an auction of absolutely everything in the Club Room (which will include a meal) and a Tutts Clump verses Stanford Dingley cricket match.

The current account has a balance of £1,235.55. The race night in November raised £869, £410 of which was donated to Friends of St. Denys.

9.2 **Dredge Gang.**

The Dredge Gang met on the 24th March and cleared street drains, gullies and ditches, litter picked within the village, and cleared overhanging trees on the Pang upstream from the village. More work is required to clear overhanging trees on the Pang, once the bird nesting season is over.

9.3 **Highways Maintenance and Potholes.**

The roads have suffered from Gigaclear's work and a high level of surface water. Whilst WBC has been quick at providing temporary repairs, there has been more mud and damage to verges than usual. If WBC could focus more on road drainage issues and speak to councillors at a local level, reoccurring problems could potentially be

resolved; flooding outside Mere View House has been reported on five separate occasions this year; clearing the road drain does not resolve the problem; a drainage engineer needs to recommend an alternative drainage system and to consider what is happening to the drain outlets which are within the land belonging to Mere View House.

9.4 Rights of Way.

At the beginning of April, Cllr. Bellin reported four gates along footpath STAN 21/1 to WBC as they needed replacing or repairing. WBC responded that they would look into the problems and contact the landowners.

At the end of March, a vehicle was driven down bridleway STAN 24/2 and got stuck. Having damaged the bridleway the vehicle was rescued by a tractor. WBC has said the bridleway will be inspected within three weeks.

There was a dangerous manhole cover on Clay Hill which was reported to WBC. WBC responded that they would get contractors to repair the manhole cover as soon as possible.

The second stile on the footpath from the church to Severals Farm is very wobbly and unstable.

It was understood that the byway up Clay Hill was on the WBC winter improvement plan, but it was reported as still being in a very poor state.

9.5 Flooding.

The two new Flygt pumps installed at the end of November failed to cope over the Easter weekend, when there was 5cm of rainfall. Thames Water was fairly prompt in deploying tankers, but the location of the water ingress into the system has still not been addressed. The Pang Valley Flood Forum is chasing Thames Water to see if the in-line monitors detected water ingress at the time of the rain when the river and groundwater levels weren't particularly high.

The Mill bypass channel for the flood alleviation scheme has had a setback; whilst the topographical survey has been completed, the Environment Agency is no longer happy with the original cost/benefit ratio. As a result, Stuart Clark (WBC Principal Engineer) has been asked to obtain a quote from the contractor to show that the scheme can be built for the amount shown in the Business Case. Unfortunately the scheme has been pushed out of the six year programme for the time being, but Stuart is hopeful that it can be reinstated once the cost issues have been resolved.

10. The Club Room.

For the first six months there has been £345 of income from the Club Room. During the six month period until the end of February, electricity of £641.73 (ex. VAT) was used. Now that the Club Room has dried out, all the electricity is off. It is planned to have background heat in the Club Room for the months of November, December, January and February only. Paul Lemm is due to look at alternative tariffs and suppliers.

It was noted that Gigaclear have had issues with their contractors which has delayed progress but work now appears to have restarted..

11. The Website.

Holly Lombardo has given notice that she no longer has the time to run the parish website and has passed it to Ais Bucknell. It was agreed that Cllr. Dent, Cllr. Fullerton and Kevin Waldie will meet with Ais to identify how to move the site forwards.

CD
HF

12. Parish Assembly – Monday 30th April 2018.

The Assembly will be held in the Club Room. It was agreed that there should be an update on St. Denys. In addition there will be an update from the Friends of St. Denys when it will hopefully become clear what elements of the project they will fund.

It was agreed that there would be updates on the Club Room, the Activities

Committee, the Dredge Gang and rural life to include farming, new families and GigaClear.

Cllr. Fullerton will be responsible for publicity.

HF

9. **Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Monday 18th June at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed:

Date: