

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 18th June 2018 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies of absence were received and approved from District Cllr. G. Pask.
Apologies of absence were received from District Cllr. Q. Webb after the meeting.

2. Open Session.

There were no matters to be raised during the Open Session.

3. Declaration of Interests.

3.1. Updates to the Register of Interests

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

3.2. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

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

4. Minutes of the meeting on the 16th April 2018.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 16th April 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.

Shipping Containers – it was noted that Stanford Dingley PC has no enforcement powers, but Cllr Fullerton advocated that Councillors should have a consistent approach across the Parish. It was suggested that those with shipping containers could potentially use dry, redundant agricultural buildings as alternative storage.

Defibrillators – The PC made a decision at the meeting on the 16th April 2018 that additional defibrillators were not a priority at that time. Cllr. Body was not at that meeting and had a different opinion. Cllr. Body has raised sufficient funding for one more defibrillator and a significant amount for a third. Cllr. Body will pursue additional defibrillators privately.

St. Denys – Cllr. Hawkesworth commented that the Friends of St. Denys charity has raised over £6,000, although it is unclear at this time which elements of the project the charity is wishing to support. Meanwhile, the PCC has raised approximately £180,000 (through private donations) towards the works required on the church. The work at St. Denys', had been put out to tender, but there was an insufficient number of tender bids received, so a re-tendering process is now taking place, which will inevitably delay the work. It is planned, therefore, to reopen St. Denys' on the 1st July until such time that the work can begin.

Cllr Hawkesworth suggested that there were limits to the appetite and/or capacity of the Parish to donate funding towards capital projects, and more thought needed to be given to the funding requirement particularly in an environment when grant monies were scarce.

5. Clerk's Report.

5.1. Finances.

5.1.1. To receive the Financial Statement.

The Clerk presented a Financial Statement to the Council showing a balance of £5,128.28 once all transactions have cleared. This was unanimously approved. It was noted that a contribution of £100 needs to be paid to the Pang Valley Flood Forum.

Cllr. Dent asked about the progress of the claim for the VAT, particularly for the works on the Club Room which total approximately £3,000; the Clerk responded that

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this would be completed before the next meeting.

5.2. Audit.

5.2.1. Internal Auditor's Report.

Caroline Hyde, the Internal Auditor, has completed her work and found no issues requiring attention.

5.2.2. Annual Governance Statement for year ending 31st March 2018.

The Governance Statement was considered and discussed by Councillors. It was resolved that Stanford Dingley PC approves the Statement of Governance.

5.2.3. Annual Accounting Statement for year ending 31st March 2018.

Stanford Dingley Parish Council resolved to approve the Accounting Statement for the year ending the 31st March 2018.

5.3. Asset Register.

The Clerk advised that the Asset Register needed to be reviewed, particularly in light of the refurbishment of the Club Room and the purchase of various pieces of equipment. There was some debate about the various different values required on the register. It was agreed that the Clerk will continue to work on the Asset Register with assistance from Cllr. Dent and Cllr. Hawkesworth.

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5.4. Correspondence.

WBC Community Workshop of the Landscape Character Assessment for West Berkshire - This workshop is to be held on Tuesday 3rd July from 10am to 11.30am in West Berkshire Council offices. No councillors are available to attend, so it was agreed that the Clerk would try to attend.

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6. Planning.

6.1. 18/00928/HOUSE – Dingley Cottage, Southend.

Stanford Dingley Parish Council has made no objection to this application.

7. Village Field.

The entrance has now been made secure and the old parts of the gateway are to be used as fire wood.

Cllr. Fullerton commented that the compost bins for grass cuttings and leaves from the Village Field and the church yard are rather unsightly. It was suggested that the grass cuttings be removed when the grass is cut.

A quote has been requested for the installation of permeable plastic pavers in the entrance to the field.

8. The Club Room.

Cllr. Dent reported that in general the Club Room is covering its costs. Use of the facility could be improved. There was a brief discussion on cleaning and it was agreed that a new cordless hover could be purchased for a maximum cost of £160. The current Club Room committee is lacking motivation; it was noted that this appears to be community wide problem.

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It was agreed that Community Engagement should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

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9. Reports.

9.1. Activities Committee.

The lack of enthusiasm and motivation in the community was commented on again. There is a cricket match on the 24th June between Tutts Clump and Stanford Dingley, but no further events have been planned..

The possibility of merging the Activities Committee with the Club Room Committee was suggested.

9.2. Dredge Gang.

The Dredge Gang has not met since the last Parish Council meeting.

9.3. Highways Maintenance and Potholes.

It was noted that a number of potholes have been repaired. The road surface around a number of sewer manhole covers requires attention..

- 9.4. Rights of Way.
On the 8th May, WBC delivered three footpath gate kits to Robin Plank for footpath STAN 21 (Stanford Dingley, along the Pang towards Bradfield). These are supposed to be installed within a fixed timeframe, but it was noted that this is a busy time of year for farmers. It was suggested that the Dredge Gang may be able to install them. It was also noted that there have been a number of incidents of gates being left open and litter being left.
- 9.5. Flooding.
The Pang Valley Flood Forum is organising a meeting with WBC and Thames Water on the 25th June to discuss the sewer flooding. This should also be an opportunity to find out whether any progress has been made with bringing the flood alleviation scheme back into the six year programme for implementation. MH
- 9.6. Website.
No meeting has taken place with Ais Bucknell. Cllr. Fullerton will talk to Ais and organise a meeting. HF
10. **Round Table Comments.**
- 10.1. Noticeboards.
The noticeboard on Saffron House Barn will need to be removed before work begins at the site. There is a need for a noticeboard at the Club Room. Cllr. Hawkesworth commented that he has two posts on which a noticeboard could be mounted
- 10.2. Clients' Parking at The Boot.
Concern was raised about customers of The Boot parking in the road and restricting traffic flow, notably tractors. It was felt that the car park is not currently utilised as well as it could be due to a pile of gravel a. It was suggested that an "A" frame could be put outside the pub requesting people not to park along the narrow sections of road. Cllr. Hawkesworth agreed to talk to the landlord on the grounds that the Parish Council had discussed it. MH
11. **Date of next meeting:**
The next meeting will be on Monday 17th September at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Date: