

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

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

**1. Apologies.**

There were no apologies.

**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.**

No members declared an interest in any of the agenda items.

**3. Election of a Chairman.**

**3.1. To appoint a Chairman for the remainder of 2018/19.**

Cllr. Belling proposed that Cllr. Fullerton be Chairman of Stanford Dingley PC for the remainder of the year (until MAY 2019); this was seconded by Cllr. Dent and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Fullerton then signed the declaration of office.

**4. Merger of the Club Room Committee and the Activities Committee.**

*It was agreed to move this item to earlier in the meeting.*

It has been put forwards that the Club Room Committee and the Activities Committee should be combined because it would enable more people to work more efficiently together. It was suggested a new group (encompassing both the previous groups) would be called SD Events.

It was resolved that SDPC supports the two groups joining together. Cllr. Dent, Hilary Dent and Barry ?? would draft a new Terms of Reference for the group based on those of the Activities Committee and the Club Room Committee.

It was suggested that rent for hall usage should be paid to the SD Events group; however, the Clerk suggested that in order to cover the electricity and broadband costs (when they start being charged), it was important that the PC had income to cover them rather than asking for SD Events groups to transfer money for each invoice. The Clerk further suggested that whilst the refurbished Club Room is establishing itself as a venue, the PC should make budgetary allowances to cover the electricity and broadband overheads.

Cllr. Belling raised concerns that some members of the parish may feel excluded from events by the combined committee.

**5. Minutes of the meetings:**

**5.1. Meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

**5.2. Meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

**6. Clerk's Report.**

**6.1. Finances.**

6.1.1. **To receive the Financial Statement.**

The Clerk circulated a financial statement to members prior to the meeting which showed a balance of £7,650.74, once all cheques and lodgements have cleared. This statement was unanimously approved.

6.1.2. **To receive a six-monthly expenditure against budget report.**

The expenditure to 30<sup>th</sup> September (covering the first six months of the financial year) against the budget, was presented. Cllr. Belling asked if the cost of petrol for the lawn mower used to cut the area around the log tangle could be covered; this was unanimously approved.

The electricity for the Club Room is likely to be over budget; the two invoices for January to March and April to June have totalled £447.44 (excluding VAT) against a budget for the year of £600.

6.2. **To receive an update on the vacant position.**

WBC has confirmed that no parishioners requested that an election be held after the resignation of Cllr. Hawkesworth; the position may now be filled by co-option. Aisling Bucknell has been suggested as a possible candidate; it was reported that she has been approached and would be willing to take on the role. It was agreed that co-option of a new councillor would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

6.3. **Assets.**

The Asset register was reviewed and the following points were raised:

6.3.1. **Benches**

There are three benches on the Green: one wooden and two with cast iron ends and wooden slats. It was agreed that two were unsafe and should be removed. There was a suggestion that a family wished to restore one of the benches in memory of a family member; Cllr. Fullerton will follow this up with the family concerned. The unsafe benches will be removed for refurbishment or disposal.

HF

6.3.2. **Defibrillator**

The defibrillator is an asset of the SDPC, having been donated by Heartstart Thatcham. As a result, SDPC are responsible for it and should ensure that it is checked on a regular basis. Cllr. Fullerton will contact Heartstart Thatcham and find out what checks need to take place and carry out the initial checks.

HF

6.3.3. **K9 Phone Box**

The phone box which houses the defibrillator belongs to SDPC. It is Grade II listed with Historic England and should be on the asset register.

6.3.4. **Grit Bins**

The Clerk asked for clarification on the location of grit bins. It was understood that there were four: opposite Saffron House Barn, at the entrance to Casey Court and two going up Clay Hill (there was a question about whether or not there are two on Clay Hill).

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should organise refilling of the grit bins by Willis and Ainsworth in Thatcham in conjunction with Frilsham and Bucklebury parishes.

HP

6.3.5. **Noticeboards**

It was agreed that the Cllr. Dent will organise moving the noticeboard opposite Casey Court to the Club Room.

CD

6.4. **Correspondence.**

The Clerk advised members of the following meetings:

- WBC District Parish Conference – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November
- BALC AGM – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 7.45pm at Shinfield

- CCB AGM – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November. CCB is proposing to change its name from Community Council for Berkshire to Connecting Communities in Berkshire; this is supported by SDPC.

WBC has advised parishes that any Rights of Way which are not recorded on the definitive map will be extinguished from 2026. Action needs to be taken in order to add any routes which are not recorded. Cllr. Belling reported that STAN 9/1 is not shown on the correct route on the map on the WBC website. The Clerk will pursue this with Stuart Higgins (WBC Rights of Way officer).

HP

## 7. Planning.

### 7.1. Planning Applications for Consideration:

#### 7.1.1. **18/02583/HOUSE – Blossom Cottage**

*Single storey side extension.*

It was agreed that this application requires further consideration.

### 7.2. Planning Decisions of WBC:

#### 7.2.1. **18/00928/HOUSE – Dingley Cottage, Southend (Adjacent Parish)**

*Extensions to dwelling.*

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

## 8. Village Field.

Cllr. Fullerton will contact “Tractor Oli” about a quote to lay some form of grass crete on the entrance to the Village Field to make a more durable access.

HF

## 9. The Club Room.

### 9.1. Report on Usage.

Usage of the Club Room over the summer period has been low; however, things are beginning to appear in the diary. A marketing plan has been put in place. It is hoped that the broadband facilities along with the atmosphere may result in some hot desking use over the coming months.

## 10. Reports.

### 10.1. District Council.

#### 10.1.1. **Green Bins**

The number of residents who have taken up the optional emptying of green bins has now reached the target originally set by WBC.

#### 10.1.2. **Boundary Commission and Parliamentary Constituencies**

Last year, the Boundary Commission consulted local parish councils on the possibility of the current Bucklebury ward (Stanford Dingley, Frilsham, Bucklebury, Bradfield and Hemitage) being moved from the Newbury Constituency into the Reading West Constituency. It was thought that this proposal was absurd and there was no further news; however, it is understood that this proposal has now been put before MPs.

#### 10.1.3. **WBC Highways change in personnel**

District Cllr. Pask reported that Mark Edwards, head of Highways at WBC has handed in his resignation effective from the end of the year.

### 10.2. Activities Committee.

The Activities Committee has successfully run events for the 40 years and it now looks likely that it will merge with the Club Room Committee to form the SD Events Committee. During the transition there has been some confusion about organisation of events; communication is going to be key to the village working together. The last event organised was the cricket match against Tutts Clump held on a wonderful afternoon in Bradfield Southend.

Cllr. Belling took the opportunity to express her great enjoyment of having been a member of the Activities Committee for over 25 years. The Committee has kept the village interested with different events which have involved the whole community.

Events planned for the future include: the cabbage competition on 7<sup>th</sup> October, a talk on WW1 on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, viewing of the Village Archives in the Club Room on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, wreath making on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, Christmas dinner at The Boot on the 8<sup>th</sup> December and a children's Christmas party on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr. Belling was congratulated on working on the Activities Committee for 25 years.

**10.3. Dredge Gang.**

Paul Lemm is organising a date for the next working party. There is still work to be done upstream on the river.

**10.4. Highways Maintenance and Potholes.**

Concern was raised about the hole which has been appearing at the entrance to Casey Court. It is understood that this is caused by a water leak which has been and is continuing to be addressed by Thames Water. It was agreed that SDPC would monitor the situation.

DB

Cllr. Body raised concerns about tree branches which are very close to electricity cables and that in the event of a storm could cause the village to lose power. Cllr.

Body will contact SSE to find out what the process should be to resolve the problem.

JB

**10.5. Flooding.**

Kevin Waldie is the flood warden for Stanford Dingley and represents the parish on the Pang Valley Flood Forum.

**10.6. Website.**

Aisling Bucknell will look at the website once time allows.

**11. Round Table Comments**

**11.1. Resignation of Mark Hawkesworth**

A huge thank you was expressed by members of SDPC to Mark and Gilly Hawkesworth for all they have done for the community during the years they have lived in the parish.

**11.2. Bonfires**

It was noted that due to charging for green bins more residents are having bonfires to dispose of green waste.

**12. Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.30pm.

*Since the meeting this has been changed to **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October.***

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

Signed:

Date: