

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

**Present:** Cllr. H. Fullerton (Chairman); Cllr. C. Dent; Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. E. Hanrahan; Cllr. C. Plank; District Cllr. Graham Pask; Mrs. Helen Pratt (Clerk).

Seven members of the public including Mr. Barry Pottier, Mr. David Alderton and Mrs. Lisa Worthington.

**1. Public Session.**

**1.1. Ivinghoe.**

Mr. Alderton gave a brief update on progress with his plans for Ivinghoe. He is hoping to submit his planning application to WBC around the end of December. He has undertaken a Landscape and Visual Appraisal of the site to inform the design to enable it to integrate into its immediate surroundings and the wider setting.

**1.2. Saffron House Barn.**

Prior to work starting on the barn, a ground investigation survey was carried out. This revealed a strong smell of oil. As a result, 3 pits were dug to a depth of 2.7m. In the pit dug next to the boundary with the footpath STAN 21/1 contamination with degrading diesel oil was found flowing into the pit with the ground water at 2.7m. Diesel oil takes 30 to 40 years to degrade. A comment was made by another parishioner that this pit is in close proximity to a 90° bend in the fowl sewer coming from the north. The Environment Agency are aware of the issue.

**1.3. Road from Chapel Row to Stanford Dingley.**

Questions were asked about when the road from Chapel Row to Stanford Dingley would be completely resurfaced. It was last resurfaced 5 or 6 years ago.

**1.4. Drains.**

A parishioner has contacted WBC about getting all of the storm drains in Stanford Dingley cleared; however, he was informed that each individual storm drain needs to be logged separately. Clearance of storm drains is the responsibility of WBC.

**2. Apologies.**

There were no apologies of absence.

**3. Declaration of Interests.**

**3.1. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

**4. Minutes of the last meeting.**

**4.1. Meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were a true record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

**5. Planning.**

**5.1. Planning Applications considered by SDPC:**

**5.1.1. 19/02392/HOUSE – Saffron House.**

*Removal of side conservatory. Part single, part double single storey gable end extensions with single storey flat roof side extension.*

It was unanimously agreed that SDPC has **no objection** to this application.

**5.2. Update from Planning Training.**

Cllr. Fullerton and Cllr. Plank attended the planning training given by Bob Dray, a senior planning officer at WBC. The session covered the planning process, the planning policy hierarchy and what constitutes a valid objection to an application.

The training also gave an insight into how WB planning officers assess applications which was found to be very helpful.

**6. Parish Documents.**

**6.1. Welcome Pack.**

Cllr. Fullerton commented that he had received no feedback on contents for a Welcome Pack so no progress has been made.

Councillors were prompted for a paragraph of information for a Welcome leaflet for new parishioners which Cllr. Fullerton will then draft.

All  
HF

**6.2. Emergency Plan.**

The Clerk circulated the WBC Emergency Plan template and the Guidelines for completing an Emergency Plan to councillors and Mr. Pottier. Cllr. Hanrahan and Mr. Pottier will look at this information and consider the next steps.

EH  
BP

The District Parish Conference was based around community resilience. It was noted that rather than any group or individual having a list of vulnerable residents, an emergency warden should be allocated to a small enough area such that they are aware of the vulnerabilities of the various residents.

Questions were asked about when the village is next likely to flood. It was noted that Stuart Clarke at WBC has developed plans for a flood alleviation scheme for Stanford Dingley.

Comments were made that the drains all need to be cleared (including a stretch either side of each drain), or flooding will occur. Cllr. Bucknell agreed to carry out a survey of the storm drains and the Clerk would use this information to report them to WBC.

AB  
HP

It was reported that no sewer flooding has occurred during the last year.

**7. The Club Room.**

Mr. Pottier reported that there has been a maintenance morning at the Club Room, during which the grass and hedges were cut. The path to the side was cleared and the membrane under the gravel was removed as this was attracting more weeds than it was preventing.

Mr. Pottier and Mr. Brooke will remove the cedar branch which is resting on the shed roof. Cracked tiles on the roof of the Club Room can then be replaced and the gutters cleared. The aim is to sort out possible layouts and the Wi-Fi, so that the space in the Club Room can be used as a small business hub.

BP

Bookings for the Club Room, before the end of the year include a Christmas Party, a talk on the Duke of Wellington's Peninsular War and the General Election.

**8. The Village Field.**

Two quotes have been obtained for fencing along the roadside of the Village Field; a third quote is awaited.

A quote was obtained for geogrid on an area of 4m x 5m at the entrance to the field. It has now been determined that this is too short and it needs to be about 15m, so quotes have been obtained for geogrid and hardcore; both include regrading of the access.

It was agreed that a meeting would be convened to agree which quotes to accept and how the cost would be covered.

HP

**9. The Defibrillator.**

Each defibrillator needs a minimum of 2 guardians who are registered with the ambulance service and check the defibrillator is in working order on a regular basis. The guardians for the defibrillator outside The Bull are Andy MacKenzie and Mark Hawkesworth. Mr. MacKenzie agreed to find a new guardian to replace Mr. Hawkesworth.

The Clerk will order two new sets of pads for the defibrillator (the expiry date on the current ones is December 2019).

HP

**10. The Dredge Gang.**

The Dredge Gang has met and carried out some clearance work on the River Pang downstream of the village. It was reported that there is a lot of litter on Back Lane. It was agreed that there would be a working party on the 14<sup>th</sup> December to clear leaves from the church yard. There will be a litter picking session after Christmas. There were various reports of dog excrement being left on the path adjacent to Saffron House and in the Village Field; the Clerk will put up notices.

The litter bin outside The Bull is not being emptied any more. Mr. MacKenzie will enquire whether someone is willing to empty it locally. The Clerk will also contact WBC and find out if their contractor has the capacity to add it to their round.

HP  
AM  
HP

**11. River Pang.**

Cllr. Dent reported that the EA came out and looked at the river; they are not overly concerned about it. They were of the opinion that the build-up of silt in the river by Saffron House should be removed, but they had no issues with the mill pond. The Dredge Gang will attempt to remove the silt, accessing the river from Saffron House. Mrs. Worthington gave her permission for the access and for any silt to be put on the nettles on the bank on her side of the river. It was suggested that logs suitably positioned in the river would allow the flow to remove the silt downstream.

It was reported that the WBCS will be working on clearing trees around the river for three days from the 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**12. Reports**

**12.1. District Council.**

District Cllr. Pask reported that he has met with the Thames Valley Police area commander Nick Johns. Rural crime is considered to be a priority for the police and members of the community were encouraged to report any information to the police. A comment was made that the refuse collectors are, sometimes, careless and add to the litter problem; if this is reported, there is normally a significant improvement. Road closures have been an issue; notification about planned work should be available in the local community well in advance of closures, however emergency work has to be carried out at short notice. Diversions should be realistic and there should be warnings in place before reaching the closure.

**12.2. Stanford Dingley Events.**

At the Party in the Paddock event, a total of £2,289 was taken, plus £600 for CLIC Sargent, this gave a profit of £1,615.36. A donation of £100 was made to the John Simmonds Trust.

Before the end of the year there is to be a Christmas Party and Cllr. Fullerton will be giving a talk on the Duke of Wellington's Peninsular War with appropriate refreshments. Plans are being developed for the VE day commemorations next year. The Events committee would like to purchase a marquee and a larger shed. This would be sited at the Club Room and used to store the marquee and additional tables and chairs.

Cllr. Fullerton thanked Mr. Pottier and the Events team for all they do for the parish.

**12.3. Public Rights of Way.**

Cllr. Bucknell reported that the post, previously reported to WBC had not been replaced a few weeks ago.

A number of trees were reported to have come down on the bridleway from Jennets Hill to Rotten Row (STAN 24).

**12.4. Website.**

Cllr. Bucknell commented that she will have a lot more time after Christmas when she can work on the website. There was the suggestion that a new logo is required.

AB

There was a question about what SDPC really needs to publish on a website and whether a smaller website might be a possibility.

**13. Clerks Report**

**13.1. Finances.**

**13.1.1. To receive the Financial Statement.**

The Clerk circulated a financial statement prior to the meeting showing a balance, once all transactions have cleared, of £10,235.17 in the Treasury Account. The balance of the Lloyds Treasury Account, on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, was £7,980.17 and the Business Instant Account had a balance of £483.11.

**13.1.2. To receive a report of six-monthly spending against budget.**

A total of £2,342.34 was spent in the first six months of the year, up until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. There is an estimated expenditure for the whole year of £4,502.93, excluding any expense on the Village field fencing or access.

**13.2. Grit Bins.**

The Clerk reported that the three grit bins (Privett House, Casey Court and Bradfield Farm) are all approximately 80% full and don't require additional grit. However, there is no grit bin on the corner of Back Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk would order one.

HP

**14. Round Table Comments**

**14.1. Remembrance Day.**

Cllr. Bucknell asked if anything takes place in the parish to mark Remembrance Day in addition to the church service. Various suggestions were made, some of which are being considered by the Events Committee for the VE day commemorations. It was agreed that Cllr. Fullerton would talk to McCurdy's about cutting a soldier from marine ply to be put on the Village Green.

HF

**14.2. Memorial for PC Harper.**

A question was asked about whether there would be any form of memorial, in the parish, to remember PC Harper. Whilst this was supported, any such memorial could only be considered after the case has been heard.

**15. Date of next meeting:**

Extra ordinary Parish Council:

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Parish Council:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed:

Date: