

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

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

**Parishioners:** Mr. B. Pottier; Mr. O. Brooke; Mr. P. Trentham; Ms. P. Brodhurst; Mr. L. Mansfield. Ms. C. Cabutt; Mr. T. Billington; Mr. and Mrs. R Chessum.

**1. Public Session.**

**1.1. Planting Trees.**

There was a request that more trees are planted in the parish; in fields, hedgerows and gardens. In the 1970s, over 100 trees were planted.

**1.2. Litter Pick.**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March there is a campaign running to “Keep Britain Tidy”. It was asked that the parish take part. Cllr. Fullerton commented that he litter picks Back Lane on a monthly basis.

**1.3. Roadside Verges.**

It was questioned whether anything had been done to improve the state of the roadside verges.

**1.4. Communications.**

The Parish Council was criticised for its communications with parishioners. The following suggestions were made (some of which are being implemented in the parish): a Welcome pack for newcomers, written notification of key events, agenda items for the annual assembly requested from parishioners, more use of noticeboards, communication via text messages, regular conversations with the clerk and councillors, and parish meeting dates published in the magazines (Newslink). Cllr. Fullerton agreed to submit articles for inclusion in Newslink.

HF

**1.5. Flooding.**

It was reported that there are a number of residents who suffer from the effects of both river and sewer flooding. The pumps at the sewage pumping station do not always work properly. The problem must be dealt with by WBC and Thames Water. There have been a number of complaints, however there has been little if any action. Cllr. Dent commented that the river has not broken its banks since 2014, but that there have been regular sewage overflows during the last 10 years. Thames Water and The Environmental Health department at WBC must press Thames Water for action. The Environment Agency may also apply pressure to Thames Water because there is sewage flowing into a chalk stream. Laura Farris MP has written to Thames Water and WBC to expedite the situation.

Mr. Pottier commented that he and Mr. Brooke are the two flood wardens for Stanford Dingley; there was no hand over from Kevin Waldie and Mark Hawkesworth. The flood wardens do not have any equipment, protective clothing, hi-vis jackets or signage to put out in the case of flooding.

Ms. Brodhurst commented that some parishioners would have been in more trouble if it hadn't been for Mr. Pottier and Mr. Brooke clearing the river and managing traffic.

It was suggested that Cllr. Fullerton should be taking a lead and meeting with Thames Water and WBC to get action taken to resolve the problems.

District Cllr. Pask commented that the flood relief channel is an initiative of WBC and will take water from one side of the road to the other. He understood the angst and anger of residents. WBC is responsible for the roads and drains. After Cllr. Bucknell's report on the drains was sent to WBC, they were cleared. Laura Farris

MP has spent time in the parish with both Mr. Pottier and Cllr. Fullerton. The sewer leaking and the subsequent flooding needs to be fixed by Thames Water. Fluvial flooding is being investigated by the Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF) to which both Mr. Pottier and Mr. Brooke belong.

There has been a history of sewer flooding in the parish for the last 10 years. Mr. Pottier commented that the drains were cleared prior to Storm Dennis. Both storm Dennis and storm Brendan had significant rainfall and as a result there was significant ingress of water to the sewage network, possibly caused by porous pipes. There has been a request for a meeting with a senior engineer from Thames Water. It has also been suggested that the camber of the road in the middle of Stanford Dingley may cause part of the problem.

Mr. Mansfield commented that he needed to use storm doors to keep the sewage out of his home.

The garden of Mill Cottage is still covered in slurry from the sewage; photographs of this have been taken.

It was suggested that the sewage flooding should be reported to the newspapers and put on social media; this was largely agreed.

**2. Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. E. Hanrahan.

**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 previous meeting:**

**4.1. Parish Council meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

**5. Flooding.**

Following on from the earlier discussion on flooding, it was agreed that Cllr.

Fullerton would write to Thames Water and circulate a copy to all members. HF

Cllr. Dent will draft a letter to the Environment Agency and OFWAT. This will be circulated before sending. CD

Mr. Pottier will circulate the date of the meeting with Thames Water. BP

**6. Clerks Report.**

**6.1. Finances - To receive the financial statement.**

The Clerk circulated a financial statement to members prior to the meeting showing a balance of £8,153.75, once all cheques have cleared. A reconciliation with the bank statement dated the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 with a balance of £8,616.07 was included in the financial statement.

**6.2. Annual Parish Assembly – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

It was agreed that District Cllr. Pask would ask Stuart Clark or John Winstanley from WBC to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly. GP

Councillors will organise refreshments for parishioners amongst themselves.

**6.3. Communications with the parish.**

The Clerk will work with Mr. Potier, Cllr. Fullerton and Cllr. Dent to try and increase the number of parishioners who have given their permission to be on the various parish distribution groups.

**6.4. Agenda.**

Cllr. Fullerton thanked Cllr. Dent for coming up with suggestions for agenda subjects.

**6.5. District Parish Conference – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March (5.30pm for 6.30pm).**

The Clerk will attend the District Parish Conference on behalf of SDPC.

7. Planning.

7.1. 19/02522/FUL – Church View Barn.

*Cllr. Fullerton stood down as Chairman for this item as he has an interest.*

*Cllr. Dent took over as Chairman.*

The meeting was **closed** for the applicant to speak.

Ms. Carbott explained that the amended plan is to demolish the existing stable block and replace it (in almost the same position) with a single storey garage block. The replacement building will be more sympathetic to the location than the existing stable block. The laurel hedge of 2.5m will screen the garage from the road due to the levels, even though the garage is higher than 2.5m. The height of the roof cannot be made any lower, whilst still using clay tiles. The finished height of the roof will be just over 2m lower than that of the garage at Chalk Pit Cottage. The applicant believes that the ground was officially garden, before the stables were built.

Mr. Fullerton feels that the amended plans are an improvement.

The meeting was **reopened**.

After discussion, it was agreed that SDPC has **no objection** to the amended plans.

*Cllr. Fullerton resumed his position as Chairman.*

7.2. Ivinghoe.

Mr. Alderton held a consultation meeting in the Club Room for his proposed planning application at Ivinghoe. SDPC has not received notification of any new planning application to date.

The meeting was **closed** for residents to speak.

It was reported that an outstanding level of detail has been considered in the new plans. It was commented upon that it would be the only house without a pitch roof in the parish and that in reality it was very similar to the original application. Comment was also made that the middle of the village (within the conservation area) was sacrosanct and that the location of Ivinghoe, outside of the conservation area made it more suitable for a modern innovative design.

The meeting was **reopened**.

8. Management of Parish Assets.

8.1. The Club Room.

It was reported that the lock on the front door of the Club Room has been broken. However, given that the door has swollen, it actually gives the impression of being locked.

Mr. Pottier reported that a tree surgeon is visiting and will provide a quote to remove the cedar branch resting on the roof of the Club Room.

8.2. The Village Field.

The field is still very wet and boggy due to the weather. As soon as it has dried out, work will start on the fencing and the entrance.

9. Website.

Cllr. Bucknell reported that the test domain is up and running. About half of the material on the existing website has been copied across to the new domain. Cllr. Bucknell is doing the initial upload of the data files to the new website.

A new logo has been designed for the website.

The new web site needs to be live by the 20<sup>th</sup> March when the existing website contract expires.

10. What this Council wants to achieve.

It was agreed that this item would be deferred (due to time constraints) to a separate discussion to take place prior to the Annual Parish meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

11. Reports

11.1. District Councillor's Report.

The housing need component of the next Local Plan is currently out for consultation. This is reviewing the settlement hierarchy; Stanford Dingley is not considered a

settlement in planning terms which gives a level of protection from development to the parish.

For low cost housing to be developed, a local need must first be shown which requires a parish survey. Once a need has been shown, land has to be found with a minimal cost, such that the cost of the housing is essentially only the cost of the build.

**11.2. Stanford Dingley Events Committee.**

Mr. Pottier reported that there is a full calendar of events planned including the showing of the film “Jam and Jerusalem”, a plant sale and celebrations to commemorate VE day.

A question was asked about Coronavirus and any plans which should be made; it was agreed that Government directives should be followed.

Cllr. Fullerton thanked Mr. Pottier for organising the events and updating SDPC.

**11.3. Highways, Maintenance & Potholes.**

The local roads have suffered as a result of the recent high rain fall. It was requested that potholes are reported directly to WBC via the website. It was suggested that drivers be very cautious of surface water on the roads, as this is often where the worst potholes are.

**11.4. Public Rights of Way.**

There has been damage to two gates on footpath STAN 14/2. Cllr. Bucknell will report these to WBC.

Planks/sleepers, forming a bridge have been moved; Mr. Brooke agreed to return the bridge to its original position.

The barb wire fencing next to bridleway STAN 24/1 (from Jennets Hill north) is lying on the ground and a danger to users. This has been raised with WBC and Cllr. Plank will take it up with her husband.

AB

CP

**12. Round Table Comments.**

**12.1. Defibrillator.**

The suggestion of a defibrillator at the Club Room was raised. It was commented upon that SDPC had determined that a second defibrillator was not a current priority. It was suggested that more parishioners should be encouraged to attend the training.

**12.2. Purchase of a pump.**

It was suggested that the purchase of a pump to assist in flood situations may be helpful. Mr. Trentham commented that he had a pump and generator; Mr. Brooke also commented that he had a generator.

It was agreed that the purchase of a pump was worth considering.

**13. Date of next meetings:**

*In light of coronavirus, it is likely that both of the following meetings will be postponed.*

Annual Parish Meeting: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Date: