

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm.**

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

**Parishioners:** Mr. B. Pottier.

**1 Public Session.**

No items were raised during the public session.

**2 Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. C. Plank and Mr. O. Brooke.

**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 last meeting:**

**4.1 Parish Council meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July and Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 were an accurate account of the meetings and they will be signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

**5 Management of Parish Council Assets.**

**5.1 The Club Room.**

There has been little activity in the Club Room and little is expected due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

A new padlock has been purchased for the shed.

**5.2 The Village Field.**

Dog training has been taking place on the Village Field for 3 nights a week, which to date has generated £440. The field has been booked for dog training until November, when due to the lack of daylight it is possible the training will take place at weekends.

Before the dog training starts, the field is checked for safety and a lot of dog waste is found. Mr. Pottier has purchased a dog bin and signage which will be installed at the entrance to the Village Field.

The Clerk will contact Triangle Management to arrange for the dog bin and the waste bin on the Green to be emptied.

**Hay from churchyard:** Now that the compost bins have been removed, there have been questions about what is to be done with the hay and grass cuttings from the churchyard. Cllr. Fullerton will talk to Cllr. Plank whose husband had agreed to remove the material as needed.

**5.3 The Green.**

It was suggested that The Green could be tidied up. In the first instance, it was agreed that Cllr. Bucknell will arrange for a quote to feed and weed the grass.

There was a discussion about the hedge adjacent to Tudor Cottage and a tree.

**5.4 The Dredge Gang.**

It was agreed that the Dredge Gang should meet with a maximum of 6 people to collect up the leaves.

**6 Planning.**

**6.1 Planning applications sent to SDPC for consultation:**

**6.1.1 20/01742/HOUSE – Little Orchard.**

*Proposed replacement outbuilding.*

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

**6.2** Planning decisions made by WBC:

**6.2.1** **19/02392/HOUSE – Saffron House.**

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

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

**6.2.2** **20/01454/CERTE – Church View Barn.**

*Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) for the use of land as residential garden land at Church View Barn.*

BPC had no comments on this application which WBC has determined as **lawful**.

**6.2.3** **20/01693/HOUSE – Rushdens Farm, Bucklebury Road.**

*First floor rear extension, new porch and alterations to glazing.*

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

**6.3** Planning decisions taken to appeal:

**6.3.1** **19/02522/FUL – Church View Barn.**

*The demolition of the existing stable block and the construction of a three-bay replacement garage building with adjoining log store, alongside associated parking, access and landscaping works and the change of use of the land to a residential use.*

An amendment was submitted moving the proposed garage to the site of the stable block.

SDPC **objected** to the original application, but had **no objection** to the amended plans.

WBC **refused** the planning application. This refusal has now been taken to **appeal**.

**6.4** National Planning Consultation.

The Government has produced a new white paper transforming planning. This is likely to bring the biggest changes to planning since the introduction of planning in 1949. District Cllr. Pask reported that WBC has commented very fully on the proposals. WBC is a plan led authority and tends to determine applications in a timely manner. The proposal would place a lot more emphasis on Local Plans, which it is suggested should be updated every two and a half years. The proposal is to designate land as one of three types: growth, renewal and protected. Stanford Dingley would be designated protected on the grounds that it is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, however this would not preclude it from some limited development.

If there are sites within the parish, which SDPC believe could be used for development (with consultation of parishioners), these sites would have to be put forwards at the beginning of the process of updating the Local Plan.

**7** Parish Census.

In order to determine what the priorities of SDPC should be, there is a need to know about the age groups of people who reside in the whole parish and what they want from the parish. There priorities could be around village facilities, road safety, housing, tree planting etc. It was agreed that ‘SurveyMonkey’ be used to carry out the survey and it was believed that this shouldn’t exclude any members of the parish. It was noted that in recent years there has been a significant change in the inhabitants so there should be some question about how long people have lived in the parish.

It was agreed that before questions are identified, the purpose of the survey needs to be clear. The survey should be split into sections with approximately 5 to 8 questions in each section.

It was noted that the questions need to be very carefully worded, such that history is not repeated.

Cllr. Hanrahan will collate thoughts from councillors on the survey.

**8** Road Safety.

Whilst having concerns about the speed of the traffic in the parish, SDPC is very supportive of the two pubs. There is a lot of traffic, during the day, to and from the pubs which is not local. There have been a few repeated complaints. Ritchie at The Bull is very supportive of

work to reduce speed and has been very proactive putting up signs, however he feels “got at”.

The worst two areas for traffic travelling too fast are: on the bend past Brook House and coming down Jennets Hill.

Four posters have been submitted by local children which need to be scanned and printed onto plastic board to encourage drivers to slow down. Cllr. Bucknell will be doing this. There was a general discussion about what else could be done. Suggestions included CCTV to capture registration numbers and getting parishioners onboard to obtain identification of the vehicles which are speeding and then to report this information to the Police.

**9** **Sewer Flooding.**

Cllr. Dent commented that he has a number of representations from parishioners to send to Thames Water, but still needed to obtain one or two more. A letter to Thames Water and a covering letter for WBC and the EA have been prepared. It would be beneficial to have the view of Environmental Health on the health risk posed by the sewer flooding.

It was agreed that the letters be reviewed by Cllr. Fullerton from whom they will be sent, preferably in October.

**10** **Digitisation of records.**

Cllr. Bucknell reported that the village archives are currently at Briarbank where for practical reasons there is little access. If the archives were scanned there could be much greater use of them and some could be put on the website.

There is a company in Tilehurst who scan A4 lever arch folders for £50.00 plus £5.00 to include OCR indexing. It was agreed that Cllr. Bucknell will obtain a quote for this work. Grant funding was suggested as a possible way of covering the cost.

**11** **Reports.**

**11.1** District Councillor’s Report.

District Cllr. Pask asked if they were any questions given that he had already reported to the meeting about the planning white paper.

**11.2** Stanford Dingley Events Committee.

Mr. Pottier reported that events were very limited with the pandemic rules restricting social gatherings. However, there was a VE day vegetable competition for which a lot of people made an effort. The annual cabbage walking stick competition will be held this coming weekend (26th/27<sup>th</sup> September).

A family treasure hunt is being considered, with families going out at timed intervals, but it will be a challenge to organise.

**11.3** Website.

Cllr. Bucknell was thanked for her work to produce a good website. Prices for the Club Room have been updated. Instructions on how to load documents need to be sent to the Clerk and Mr. Pottier.

**11.4** Tree planting in the parish.

Cllr. Hanrahan submitted an application to DEFRA for trees, however currently they are not processing applications. Cllr. Hanrahan is sourcing 20 trees for the parish; however, it was hoped that there could be a group of people who would plant them and look after them going into the future, but this is not possible with the pandemic restrictions. Equally, there is some discussion on the locations where the trees can be planted; some are in favour of them going into hedgerows, whereas others prefer the Village field.

It was agreed that planting would be planned for the spring when hopefully there can be working parties.

**11.5** Public Rights of Way.

The footpath at the back of Bradfield Farm (BRAD22A) is very wet and muddy. It was agreed that District Cllr. Pask would speak to Sallie Jennings to find out what could be done.

**12 Clerks Report.**

**12.1 Finances.**

**12.1.1 To receive the financial statement dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

The Clerk reported that the following payments have been made since the last meeting:

HMRC	£48.00	PAYE.
OJM Farm Contractors	£1815.66	Village Field fencing.
C.H. Hyde	£50.00	Internal audit.
A.Bucknell	£452.07	Website costs.
A.Bucknell	£39.59	Three years hosting of website.
Post Office Ltd	£47.09	SSE, electricity for the Club Room.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £7,726.18 which reconciles to the bank statement dated the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 showing a balance of £8,314.93.

**12.1.2 Contribution to WBC for Libraries.**

It was agreed that a contribution of £200 would be made to WBC for libraries.

**13 Date of next meetings: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm.**

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

Signed:

Date:

DRAFT