

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

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

Parishioners: Mr. B. Pottier; Mr. S. Logan; Mr. O. Brooke; Mr. P. Trentham; Mr. H. Best-Shaw.

1. Public Session.

1.1. Drains and Flooding.

Parishioners were somewhat incensed at the lack of action from WBC in relation to the reports which have been submitted about blocked drains. District Cllr. Pask commented that he appreciated the feelings on the lack of physical work which had taken place to clear the drains and to clear the general detritus which had built up, in places, on the road. It was agreed that things need to move forwards in a positive way; firstly, to get the gullies and drains working and secondly to remove the mud from the road. It was felt that WBC had failed to react to a number of reports of the problem; District Cllr. Pask asked that if inadequate responses are received again that it be reported to him to deal with.

WBC has suggested that in late summer, an audit of the drainage system is carried out and any known problems are reported to WBC at that time such that they can be dealt with.

1.2. Flood Prevention Scheme.

Further assessment is expected to go ahead during the next month for services in the road between Oaken and the Bull, where the road will be lowered to accommodate the swale. There is provisional funding for the swale work in the 2021/2022 financial year.

1.3. Road Surface.

Pot holes should be reported to WBC via the online reporting tool. There was some question about whether there is a priority or grading system as to which communities get attention from WBC (be it drain work or pot hole work).

1.4. Storm Drains around Bridge House and Saffron House.

Concern was raised about the storm drains which run from the road into the gardens of Bridge House and Saffron House, and should then run into the Pang. There are manholes on each side of the Pang in the adjacent gardens; however, the flow from the manhole in Bridge House is blocked by the paving stones; this is understood to being dealt with.

1.5. Dredge Gang.

The jobs which the Dredge Gang can carry out for the benefit of the parish are growing exponentially, but the available manpower is not. A definitive answer is required from WBC about what tasks the Dredge Gang can legally undertake.

1.6. Verges.

The verges are constantly being eroded away. It was suggested that tarmac passing points (as found between Bucklebury Village and Briff Lane) would be beneficial. Notices requesting that drivers protect verges were discussed.

1.7. Use of Restricted Byway STAN 1 (Pangfield Farm to Bushnells Green Lane).

Mr. Logan commented that in 1911 there were six farms in Stanford Dingley; this has now reduced to a single farm, however there is more machinery which is heavier and larger than before. There are still two pubs in the village, but customers now park in the roads. He suggested that to reduce the number of agricultural vehicles going through the village, the restricted byway from Bushnell's Green Lane to

Pangfield Farm could be upgraded to accommodate some of this traffic. It was suggested that a bridge over the river may be required to avoid pollution of the river.

1.8. Use of Farm Machinery.

It was commented upon that when the hedges are flailed, most of the material cut ends up in the road and ends up clogs up the drains.

It was suggested that WBC might consider paying the farmers to sweep and keep the roads clear.

2. Apologies.

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

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 meetings:

4.1. Parish Council meeting on Monday 4th November 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 4th November 2019 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

4.2. Extra Ordinary meeting on Monday 18th November 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of SDPC which took place on Monday 18th November 2019 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

4.3. Extra Ordinary meeting on Monday 25th November 2019.

It was resolved that the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of SDPC which took place on Monday 25th November 2019 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by the Cllr. Dent.

5. Planning.

No new applications requiring consultation have been received from WBC.

There are 11 letters of objection on application 19/02522/FUL for Church View Barn and therefore it is likely to be considered by the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

6. Parish Documents.

6.1. Welcome Pack.

A draft Welcome Pack has been produced with input from Cllr. Dent, Cllr. Bucknell and Mr. Pottier. It was suggested that the legal role of the Parish Council might be included at the beginning. Large concerns were raised by Cllr. Dent about issues with the website and the perceived inability to refer to documents on the website. Cllr. Fullerton thanked all those who've helped to produce the Welcome Pack. It was agreed that the current draft should be considered the first version and it be circulated to the last five or six dwellings to have new ownership.

6.2. Emergency Plan.

Cllr. Hanrahan reported that there has been no progress on the Emergency Plan.

EH

7. The Club Room.

The online booking form has disappeared from the website; Cllr. Bucknell agreed to look into this.

AB

There is a party booked for the 25th January and there are a couple of corporate events in the pipeline. Currently, bookings are largely dependent upon word of mouth recommendations.

Some work needs to be carried out by a roofer on the roof and a tree surgeon is required to remove a limb from the cypress tree. The fascia board also needs to be replaced.

8. The Village Field.

Now that the fencing contract has been agreed, unfortunately the land is too wet, so the work will be carried out in the spring. The Plank's will need to fence the east boundary of the field. The fence belonging to the McCurdy's is becoming dangerous.

The access track has become very muddy with the wet weather.

8.1. To consider the quote for the access track.

Mr. Pottier has had a discussion with Olly Morris about the most suitable material for the entrance to the Village Field. A stone and hard-core track would be quicker to do and a more hard-wearing solution, the addition of a membrane between the hardcore and stone would eradicate any growth of weeds and seeds (£1,800 +VAT). The use of plastic hexagonal tiles is less hard wearing (£2,000 +VAT). White Horse Contractors were contacted for a quote, but didn't reply. It was resolved to go ahead with the quote for a hard-core track.

9. Reports

9.1. District Councillor's Report.

District Cllr. Pask suggested that WBC should be given the opportunity to resolve the drainage issues before they are raised with Laura Ferris MP. Cllr. Dent commented that he felt it would be constructive to offer to pull together a representative group from the smaller West Berkshire parishes to have a workshop discussion with her about the challenges facing small rural communities.

District Cllr. Pask reported that WBC is currently working on the budget for the next financial year; difficult decisions are having to be made over what cuts to make in order to cover the increasing costs of social care.

9.2. Stanford Dingley Events Committee.

The Events Committee has purchased a 12m x 6m marquee which it to be kept at Cllr. Dent's home or Mr. Pottier's home.

There is a meeting of the Events Committee on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Thirty tickets have been obtained for Trooping the Colour, twenty of which will be made available to the community.

9.3. Highways, Maintenance & Potholes.

A request was made that all potholes be reported to WBC.

9.4. Public Rights of Way.

It was reported that, due to the weather, all of the paths are muddy.

The gates on either side of the wood on footpath STAN 14/2 are broken. The gate on footpath STAN 20/2 is also broken. The Clerk will report these to WBC.

HP

9.5. Website.

A cost of £480 for hosting, support and SSL for the website for two years was agreed.

Under the new website structure, ownership of pages has been allocated. The pages need to be populated. The new website needs to be up and running by the 10th March 2020 (when the current hosting expires).

10. Clerk's Report.

10.1. Finances - To receive the financial statement.

The Clerk circulated a financial statement to members prior to the meeting showing a balance of £9,096.07, once all cheques have cleared. A reconciliation with the bank statement dated the 31st October 2019 with a balance of £10,285.17 was included in the financial statement.

It was agreed that a payment of £100 be made to the Pang Valley Flood Forum and £50 to Newslink.

HP

10.2. Budget for FY20/21.

The budget for FY20/21 circulated to members (and attached to these minutes) was approved.

10.3. Precept for FY20/21.

It was resolved to raise a precept of £5,000 (the same as the previous three years).

HP

10.4. Emptying of the litter bin on the Green.

WBC has quoted £35.57 to empty the bin (when it is full) up until the end of March 2020. They have further estimated a cost of £70 for FY20/21. These quotes are for the bin to be emptied when it is full – not weekly. Local residents can inform WBC when it is full and Veolia operators and waste operatives will make inspections. It was agreed that Cllr. Fullerton would ask the proprietors at the Bull if they could empty the bin and put the contents in their skip; if this was not possible, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact WBC and take up their offer.

HF

10.5. Grit bin position at the junction of Back Lane and Cock Lane.

It was agreed that the new grit bin at the junction of Back Lane and Cock Lane be placed on the north side of the junction. The Clerk will apply to WBC for the necessary license and once obtained order a bin and grit from Willis and Ainsworth.

HP

10.6. Dates for meetings in 2020.

The following meeting dates for 2020 were agreed:

Monday 2nd March

Monday 20th April (Annual Parish Assembly)

Monday 4th May (Annual meeting of council)

Monday 6th July

Monday 7th September

Monday 2nd November

11. Round Table Comments.

11.1. Key Worker Accommodation.

Cllr. Dent asked whether there was the possibility of some key worker accommodation on the planned development at Manor Farm. There was a question on whether Donnington Trust might be interested in more buildings like Bradfield Farm. If this type of proposal is viable, SDPC needs to consider whether to put time into it and potentially open discussions.

New build housing has to supply a set percentage of affordable homes, there was uncertainty whether this was applicable to conversions (from farm buildings). It was suggested that the preferable route to follow is via rural exception sites, whereby the land is essentially given for free. District Cllr. Pask agreed to organise a meeting for Cllr. Dent to meet with a planning officer to see what options for key worker accommodation/ affordable housing may be suitable and possible in Stanford Dingley.

GP

11.2. SDPC Agendas.

After a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would request agenda items two weeks prior to each meeting.

12. Date of next meeting:

Parish Council:

Monday 2nd March 2020

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed:

Date: