

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 2nd 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 28th and 29th 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.

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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. 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