

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 6th July 2020 at 7.30pm.**

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

Parishioners: Mr and Mrs McCurdy.

1 **Public Session.**

No items were raised during the public session.

2 **Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. E. Hanrahan, Mr. Brooke and Mr. Pottier.

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 1st June 2020.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 1st June 2020 were an accurate account of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

5 **Management of Parish Council Assets.**

5.1 **The Club Room.**

Mr. Pottier submitted a report prior to the meeting.

The Club Room was used by the Hogan family during the early part of the Covid-19 lockdown because their broad band connection had not been installed. They have now vacated and made a donation of £100 for the usage.

On Saturday 4th July, there was a session to tidy up the hall.

There is an enquiry about the possibility of monthly meetings being held in the hall. There is also the possibility of a local business holding fortnightly meetings in the hall.

Mr. Pottier commented in his report that there is still a lack of website to advertise the hall.

5.2 **The Village Field.**

Mr. Pottier organised a working party on Saturday for which he was thanked along with all who helped. There is still a lot of clearing up and maintenance needed which will require several more working parties.

There was a discussion about what to do about the compost bins and it was decided to remove them; Jeremy Plank agreed to take the grass cuttings away.

Dog training is held on a regular basis in the field and 14 sessions have been booked which should give income of approximately £250. This will help towards the costs of mowing the grass and tidying up.

An avenue of ornamental cherry trees lining the entrance and deciduous trees around the perimeter is being considered, but not a clump of trees because the views across the field need to be sustained for the properties to the north of the field.

6 **Road Safety.**

District Cllr. Pask commented that the parish need to work with the Community Speed Watch Scheme. This entails people being trained to use the Speed Indicator Device (SID), which is available from WBC to record vehicle speeds at certain locations within the 30mph zone. If more than 25% of vehicles are exceeding the speed limit, WBC will escalate the issue to the next level of the scheme. This involves black boxes being put up which record speeds and can result in letters being sent by the Police to the owners of speeding vehicles.

If there remains an issue, Police speed camera vans may be a possibility. It should be noted that WBC is not the enforcement agency.

6.1 Update on what has already been done.

Cllr. Hanrahan reported prior to the meeting that he had spoken to some employers and asked them to speak to their employees about how they drive through the village. Cllr. Plank reported that she had spoken to their staff.

6.2 What actions are in progress.

Cllr. Fullerton commented that he has been out cutting hedges around the 30mph signs so they are visible.

7 Parish Plan.

It is understood that there have been no new parish plans produced in recent years.

8 Flooding

8.1 Update on what has already been done.

Cllr. Dent has proposed that the SDPC should concentrate on getting the sewer flooding resolved in Stanford Dingley and should focus on the impact it has to health. A letter of complaint will be set to the CEO of Thames Water. Any letters sent will be signed by Cllr. Fullerton as Chairman of SDPC.

The letter, to the CEO will contain an appendix of evidence of the flooding. In order to do this, any household which is understood to have been affected will be contacted and asked for information.

It was agreed that communication should be sent out to parishioners about what SDPC has been doing.

9 Reports.

9.1 District Councillor's Report.

On Monday 13th July there is a District Parish Conference on the Local Covid-19 Outbreak Plan.

The Council Offices have opened on a limited basis with approximately 15% of staff working in the office; the remainder of staff are continuing to work from home. Business is continuing as close to normal as possible with use of virtual meetings.

Parishioners were encouraged to report pot holes.

9.2 Stanford Dingley Events Committee.

Mr. Pottier reported, prior to the meeting, that as there has been no relaxation on group gatherings of any size, any event would need careful planning. The Events Team are meeting virtually on the 7th July to discuss what may be achievable, especially about the planned Village Mini Show and the VE75 dig for victory vegetable growing competition. Cllr. Fullerton commented that he is still keen to mark VJ Day and will pursue this with Mr. Pottier. Tom Bucknell offered to share his knowledge on the Covid-19 restrictions if this would be helpful.

9.3 Website.

Cllr. Bucknell reported that the new website is essentially ready to go live. Contact information is needed for CLIC Sargent and Friends of St. Denys. There are a few invoices for technical work with the fonts etc which were approved.

9.4 Public Rights of Way.

One of the gates on footpath STAN 14/2 has been repaired. Broken finger posts need to be reported to WBC. Tom Bucknell has four kissing gates for installation on the Right of Way behind Bradfield Farm (STAN 21). These will be installed with assistance from the Dredge Gang.

Concern was raised about a 15-20m stretch of STAN 27/1 which gets very muddy and becomes almost impassable in inclement weather.

10 Clerks Report.

10.1 Finances.

10.1.1 To receive the financial statement dated 6th July 2020.

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

OJM Farm Contractors	£2,160.00	Entrance to Village Field.
West Berkshire District Council	£75.00	Uncontested election charges (May 2019).
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	£50.17	BALC membership.
Post Office Ltd	£52.77	SSE, electricity for the Club Room.
C. B. Heslop & Co. Ltd	£18.00	Payroll services
Helen M Pratt	£680.00	Salary 1/1/2020 – 30/6/2020.

A donation of £100 was received from the Hogan family for use of the Club Room during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £10,178.59, which reconciles to the bank statement dated the 30th June 2020 showing a balance of £10,979.53.

10.2 **Internal Audit.**

Caroline Hyde, the internal auditor has completed the internal audit and raised the following points:

- The date on an invoice was 3 years earlier than when it was paid.
- There are three sets of unsigned minutes on the website; these should be replaced with signed minutes.
- The Clerk had claimed some very old expenses for stamps.

The auditor will be submitting an invoice shortly for her work.

10.2.1 **Governance Statement.**

Councillors, having read Section 1, the Annual Statement of Governance for the year ending 31st March 2020 and unanimously resolved to approve it.

10.2.2 **Statement of Accounts.**

Councillors discussed Section 2, the Annual Statement of Accounts and resolved to approve the accounts for the year ending the 31st March 2020.

11 **Round Table Comments.**

11.1 **Use of Facilities at Mazelands Farm.**

Permission has been given for 14 events to be held each year. However, this has increased to 14 quadbike events and 14 4x4 events. In between each event, the land is supposed to return to agricultural land, but diggers have been seen constructing a course, which is not in keeping with agricultural use. A request has been made that any evidence of use be sent to the WBC enforcement officer.

11.2 **Broadband connection to Bridge Cottage.**

Gigaclear have not installed a connection for Bridge Cottage due to the land between Bridge House and Tall Trees not being registered and no one coming forwards as the landowner.

It is understood that this situation is now resolved.

12 **Date of next meetings: Monday 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed:

Date: