

**Minutes of the Virtual Annual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Wednesday 5th May 2021 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: 4 parishioners.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Speeding.

A parishioner raised serious concerns about speeding of drivers through the village, particularly delivery drivers. Questions were asked about whether a 20mph zone might be possible. District Cllr. Pask commented that for 20mph zones, legally there must be horizontal or vertical deflections and some lighting. In addition, a 20mph zone, must be self-regulating as they are not enforced by the Police.

It was felt that the law should be changed so that 20mph zones can be introduced in villages without the need for such deflections. Cllr. Fullerton will write to Laura Farris MP and ask that changes to the law be considered.

Cllr. Hanrahan asked if it was particular delivery drivers who could be identified; a conversation with a driver can be the most effective way forwards.

Cllr. Bucknell commented that Bushnell's Green hill is only a single-track road where the national speed limit applies. Cllr. Bucknell has found signage to warn drivers that it is a dangerous, single track road.

1.2 Planning Restrictions on Gates and Fences.

Parishioners feel that planning restrictions on gates and fences should be enforced more in the parish. There are several instances of gates and fences being erected in the village which it was felt contravene planning.

District Cllr. Pask reported that, having spoken to the conservation officer, fences less than a meter from the highway do not require permission if they are less than 1m high. If they are more than a meter from the highway, they can be up to 1.8m high without requiring permission. There is no difference in a conservation area, however, if a property is listed, planning permission is required for fences, but not listed building consent. Parishioners do not want Stanford Dingley feel like a gated community.

2 Apologies.

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

3 Election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

3.1 To appoint a Chairman for 2021/22.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hanrahan that Cllr. Fullerton be Chairman of SDPC for the coming year; this was seconded by Cllr. Bucknell and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Fullerton will sign his Declaration of Office.

3.2 To appoint a Vice Chairman for 2021/22.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fullerton that Cllr. Dent be Vice Chairman of SDPC for the coming year; this was seconded by Cllr. Hanrahan and unanimously agreed.

4 Declaration of Interests.

4.1 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4.2 Updates to the Register of Interests.

Councillors were reminded of their declarations of interest and each affirmed that no updates were needed.

5 Minutes of last meeting:

5.1 Parish Council meeting on Monday 1st March 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 1st March 2021 were an accurate account of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

6 Review of Corporate Documents.

It was agreed that the Clerk would check the latest templates available for the Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations from NALC, with a view to moving to them.

7 To allocate responsibilities:

Flooding: The Clerk will contact Barry Pottier and Olly Brooke to ensure they are content to remain SDPC's representatives for flooding and in particular, representatives on the PVFF.
Public Rights of Way: Cllr. Bucknell will continue being the SDPC representative with interests in Rights of Way.

Events Committee: It was reported that Barry Pottier is standing down as Chairman of the Events Committee but will remain as a member. Cllr. Dent has been looking after the village marquee in a stable, but is concerned about rodent activity. As a result, it needs a new home. Cllr. Hanrahan offered to rehome the marquee.

8 Management of Parish Council Assets.

8.1 The Club Room.

Given that the Club Room is not being used on a regular basis, it was agreed that it should be checked. It was agreed that councillors would take it in turns, changing over at SDPC meetings; Cllr. Hanrahan will carry out the checks until the next meeting.

8.2 The Village Field.

Dave Eggleton and Cllr. Dent have been cutting the grass on the Village Field. The fence around the east side and the south side (against Manor Farm) are in a very poor state of repair. There was a discussion about planting hedging along the boundaries, but it was agreed to obtain two quotes for fencing along both sides of the field.

The annual RoSPA inspection of the log tangle has been completed and raised inherent concerns about the possibility for feet to become trapped.

8.3 The Village Green.

Cllr. Fullerton has asked McCurdy's to quote to replace the posts along the road edge of the Village Green as well as to repair the seat around the tree.

It had been agreed to order gravel to put on the footpath along the side of the fence, but after some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Hanrahan will inspect the path and review the best course of action.

Cllr. Bucknell will talk to the owners of Willow Cottage about their views on where any works should end, as the path extends in front of their dwelling.

9 Planning.

9.1 Planning applications sent to SDPC for consultation:

9.1.1 **21/00557/FULD – Saffron House (Barn).**

Section 73A – variation of condition 2 'plans' of approved application 18/03400/FULD: Demolition of existing barn and replace with new 4-bed dwelling with 2 cart sheds, alterations to existing access detail on land adjacent to Saffron House.

This application is for changes to the windows and openings in the proposed barn style dwelling. SDPC had **no objection** to this application.

9.1.2 **21/00728/FULD – Saffron House.**

Demolition of existing barn and replace with new 4-bed dwelling with 2 cart shed, alterations to existing access detail on land adjacent to Saffron House. Section 73 application to vary Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of previously approved application 18/03400/FULD.

This application is to vary application 18/03400/FULD to replace the cart shed, belonging to Saffron House (as opposed to the new build), with a new three bay oak framed garage in a different location.

District Cllr. Pask commented that there is confusion about this application and application 21/00557/FULD because both applications are seeking permission to vary the planning approval granted for application 18/03400/FULD, but neither application takes into account the other. As such it is understood that the planning officer has requested that this application be withdrawn.

It was agreed that SDPC **objects** to this application on the grounds of the ridge height of the proposed garage block.

9.1.3 21/00742/FUL – The Courtyard, Bradfield Farm.

Conversion of existing carport to 1 no. 2 bedroom flat.

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

9.2 Planning decisions made by WBC:

9.2.1 20/02926/FUL – Severalls Farm.

Erection of 2 no. buildings for General Purpose Agricultural Use and Farm Office.

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

9.2.2 20/02905/FUL – Severalls Farm.

Erection of 2 no. cattle sheds.

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

10 Parish Census.

It was reported that fourteen responses had been received. It was agreed that a reminder should be sent out to the various parish WhatsApp groups and to the ‘parishioners’ email distribution list. Cllr. Hanrahan hoped that there would be approximately 30 responses. People need to be encouraged to respond. It was noted that parishioners without access to the internet have been sent a paper copy of the census.

Cllr. Bucknell referred to a prize draw for a meal at one of the pubs, if contact details are supplied.

11 Sewer Flooding.

Cllr. Fullerton has contacted Thames Water and given them four dates for a meeting. They have said they will respond by the end of the week (7th May 2021). Five members of the parish (parishioners and councillors) will attend the meeting. It was agreed that whilst the meeting may involve an inspection on site, part of the meeting should take place in the Club Room so that the impact cannot be diminished.

It was agreed to defer purchase of a pump to direct sewage into the river over concerns that it could be viewed as SDPC contaminating the river.

12 Traffic

12.1 Upgrading of Restricted byway STAN 1 (Watery Lane).

There is unlikely to be any progress on this proposal this side of the winter.

12.2 Other Traffic Mitigation Measures.

Cllr. Bucknell will get Colour Frog to print the children’s signs onto Correx board to encourage drivers to slow down. Colour Frog also do signage for dangerous and single track roads which Cllr. Bucknell will purchase. The budget for the children’s signs is £150.

13 Clerk’s Report.

13.1 To receive the financial statement dated 5th May 2021.

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

Post Office Ltd	£124.71	SSE 1/12/2020 to 28/2/2021 (In FY20/21).
Playsafety Ltd	£82.20	RoSPA inspection (In FY21/22).
The Good Exchange	£100.00	WB CAB donation, match funded by The Good Exchange.

D. Eggleton	£300.00	Expenses for cutting the Village Field for 2020 and 2021.
Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£84.00	Bin emptying April, May and June 2021.
A. Bucknell	£101.99	Expenses.
Hampshire Assoc. of Local Councils	£50.55	BALC membership.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £6,011.44. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 31st March 2021 showing a balance of £6730.18. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,483.36 on the last statement dated the 31st March 2021.

13.2 Exemption from Audit.

The Clerk commented that it makes more sense to resolve to claim exemption from audit once the internal audit has been completed. The AGAR (Accountability and Governance Annual Return) needs to be completed and the exemption certificate returned to the external auditors by the 30th June 2021. These documents need to be approved at a council meeting before this date and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

It was agreed that an extra ordinary meeting would be held on **Monday 7th June** to approve the AGAR.

14 Reports.

14.1 District Councillor's Report.

District Cllr. Pask reported that the Annual meeting of WBC had been held and that District Cllr. Clive Hooker is the new Chairman. District Cllr. Pask is now the Chairman of the Eastern Area Planning Committee. In a reorganisation of roles, District Cllr. Richard Somner is now the portfolio holder for Planning and Highways.

West Berkshire is in a 'good' place in terms of COVID vaccinations and the number of cases.

A question was asked about the status of the emerging Local Plan and the proposed 2,500 houses to the north east of Thatcham. District Cllr. Pask commented that he had asked officers to explore other sites. The next draft of the Plan needs to be approved by the full council and will then go out to consultation for a period of six weeks, which is likely to be in late July.

14.2 Stanford Dingley Events Committee.

It is planned to hold a village picnic on Sunday 24th July.

It was agreed that the Clerk would formally ask Barry Pottier for his position on the Events Committee.

14.3 Tree planting in the parish.

It is planned to plant some trees along the west boundary of the Village Field in the Autumn.

14.4 Public Rights of Way.

Cllr. Hanrahan has spoken to the people responsible for Kings Copse about the possibility of replacing the stile with a kissing gate. No issues were raised with the suggestion. The Clerk will contact Sallie Jennings at WBC about who might be responsible and how to progress replacing the stile.

15 **Date of next future meetings:**

Extra ordinary meeting of SDPC: Monday 7th June 2021 at 7.30pm.

SDPC: Monday 5th July at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Date: