

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 6th September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

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

Four parishioners.

1 Public Session.

Cllr. Fullerton thanked all those present for what they do in the parish and commented that the parish is currently very busy with a number of building projects.

1.1 Traffic and Roads.

A parishioner asked if any consideration had been given to improving the infrastructure (particularly the roads) when planning permission had been approved for the development of the barns at Severals Farm. Farm vehicles are becoming larger and larger, and the existing roads are not sufficient for them.

Cllr. Plank commented that the development at Severals Farm should reduce the volume of farm traffic through the parish. Cllr. Fullerton has spoken to the Planks and the land agent for Donnington Trust who have also commented that there should be a reduction in volume of farm traffic as a result of the development.

It was further suggested that if the infrastructure is improved too much, there will be more development.

District Cllr. Pask will ask that WBC inspect the roads.

It was noted that vehicles are constantly eating into the high banks on either side of the rural roads in an effort to pass each other. The passing points are frequently muddy and deeply rutted; it was noted that one of the issues with such passing points is that they may not be on part of the highway, but have encroached into adjacent land under private ownership.

The road around Severals Farm is often covered in mud making it dangerous. Farmers have a statutory duty to clear mud from the roads and should be spoken to. Cllr. Fullerton agreed to speak to the Planks.

It was noted that as a rural parish, SDPC want to support the farming community in the parish.

1.2 Drainage.

It was reported that water flows out of the ditch near footpath BUCK 120/2 and then runs down the road to Ivinghoe to the culvert.

1.3 Tree planting in the Parish.

A parishioner asked whether SDPC were going to do anything about planting more trees or hedges in the parish. Cllr. Hanrahan commented that the questionnaire asked parishioners about the planting of trees. Of the thirty-one questionnaires 70% were willing to financially contribute towards trees.

Cllr. Hanrahan has placed a large order for trees and included some for the parish. It was suggested that parishioners be asked if they are willing to help plant trees and be involved in the project.

1.4 Memorial to PC Harper.

SDPC had suggested that any memorial for PC Harper could potentially be in St. Denys, however a parishioner questioned whether this was being inclusive. Cllr. Fullerton commented that this is a very sensitive issue for some parishioners and their feelings and health must be considered.

1.5 Butchers Piece.

A parishioner raised concerns about the usage of the land at Butchers Piece which is now under the ownership of Mr. and Cllr. Bucknell. Cllr. Bucknell reported that they are working

with the WBC conservation team and have requested preplanning advice. It was suggested that Butchers Piece is agricultural land, but it is not being treated as such. SDPC will attempt to clarify the formal usage of the land.

2 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Dent.

3 Declaration of Interests.

3.1 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

3.2 Updates to the Register of Interests.

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

4 Minutes of last meeting:

4.1 Parish Council meeting on Monday 5th July 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 5th July 2021 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

4.2 Extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 27th July 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 27th June 2021 were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

4.3 Update on any items in the minutes, not mentioned elsewhere on the agenda.

4.3.1 Aerobatics over the parish.

Cllr. Fullerton will contact District Cllr. Pask about what restrictions are in place to limit such flying and who to contact. Cllr. Bucknell commented that she has a contact at RAF Benson.

5 Management of Parish Council Assets.

5.1 The Club Room.

There was no update on the work on the roof.

The Club Room is not being actively advertised and no one is currently responsible for the bookings. Cllr. Bucknell agreed to find out the login information for the online booking system and it was agreed that the Clerk would take on managing the bookings of the hall. Councillors will check the hall on a regular basis.

5.2 The Village Field.

Cllr. Fullerton reported that he has spoken to the McCurdys about the boundary between the Village Field and Manor Farm Barns. The existing fence, which needs replacing, is on the Manor Farm side of the boundary. It is possible that it may be replaced with a hedge at some stage, but it is unlikely that the fence will be replaced. It was agreed that the owners of Manor Farm Barns should be encouraged to take a responsibility for the ownership.

Cllr. Plank will obtain a quote for stock proof fencing with an additional two wires along the top, and a second quote for a post and rail fence with stock fencing. Once this has been received, Cllr. Fullerton will contact a second fencing company for further comparable quotes.

The Revd. Gadsby has contacted the Clerk and Cllr. Fullerton about using the Village Field for parking for St. Denys; SDPC is happy to support the church and provide parking facilities on Sundays and at other times, providing that the field is dry enough.

5.3 The Village Green.

The gravel has been laid on the path at the back of the green. It was resolved to purchase the same amount again to cover the remainder of the path up to the Garden House. This can be laid by the Dredge Gang on the 30th October.

It was agreed that Cllr. Hanrahan would obtain quotes for a replacement bench around the Judas tree.

The replacement posts are ready to be installed, this will be done by the Dredge Gang on the 30th October.

6 Planning.

6.1 Planning applications for consultation:

6.1.1 **21/02046/HOUSE – Church View Barn.**

Construction of a greenhouse.

SDPC agreed to **no objection** to this application.

6.2 Planning decisions made by WBC:

6.2.1 **21/01283/HOUSE – Saffron House.**

Section 73 variation/removal of condition 2 (approved plans) of approved 19/02392/HOUSE – Removal of side conservatory, part single, part double single storey gable end extensions with single storey flat roof side extension.

SDPC had **objected** to this application on the grounds of the confusion of applications on the Saffron House site. WBC has **approved** this application.

6.2.2 **21/00557/FULD – Saffron House.**

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

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

7 Parish Census.

Responses were received from thirty-one of the eighty homes within the parish, twenty eight of these were online and three paper. The results show a diverse community, often with conflicting opinions. It is planned to circulate the findings from the census to the community over the next 30 days, but there is some debate about including the comments which can be attributed to particular members of the community.

There will be a longer conversation about the findings of the census at the next meeting.

8 Sewer Flooding.

There has been no update from Thames Water following the meeting. Cllr. Fullerton will talk to Cllr. Dent and try to re-establish communications with Thames Water.

Thames Water came out and cleared the sewer on Sunday 15th August.

9 Traffic

9.1 WBC SID Portal.

It was agreed that the Clerk would register on the portal enabling volunteers to borrow SID for use in the parish. There was a question about whether there are suitable places in the parish to install SID. A possible site maybe outside of Brook House.

9.2 Speed in the Parish.

Cllr. Bucknell will put up the signs to encourage traffic to slow down.

Speeding was the number one issue raised on the parish census.

There was a discussion about one particular car which speeds either to or through the village.

10 Clerk’s Report.

10.1 Correspondence.

10.1.1 **WBC – Blossom into Spring project.**

The Clerk has requested three cherry trees from the Blossom into Spring project to remember those who have died as a result of COVID. These will be planted in the Village Field by the Dredge Gang.

10.1.2 **Kings Copse Stile.**

WBC is able to provide the timber and a gate kit in order for the stile going up the hill to Kings Copse to be replaced with a kissing gate. The WBC PROW team will contact the landowner for permission for the work to be carried out.

10.2 To receive the financial statement dated 6th September 2021.

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

Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£72.00	Bin emptying for July, August & September 2021.
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CPRE

£36.00 Membership

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £7,214.64. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 30th July 2021 showing a balance of £7,322.64. The Events Committee has made a payment to SDPC of £277.50 which is the rental field for the Village Field for dog training. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,483.58 on the last statement dated the 30th July 2021.

11 Reports.

11.1 District Councillor's Report.

District Cllr. Pask reported that Nick Carter, the CEO of WBC has retired after 28 years. Nigel Lynn will join the council as the next CEO in October.

Green bins have to be paid for by direct debit, which some people are annoyed at; this is a result of the way in which the contract with Veolia was set up. Multiple visits a week can now be made to the recycling centres (there had been a limit of once a week).

11.2 Stanford Dingley Events Committee.

There are a number of people on the Events Committee, but none of them are keen to lead. It was agreed that people need to be personally asked to organise events and do things. Cllr. Bucknell will talk to members of the Events Committee about the potential for new members.

11.3 Dredge Gang.

The Dredge Gang will be out on Saturday 30th October and will be clearing the river in addition to other jobs around the parish.

11.4 Tree planting in the parish.

Cllr. Bucknell reported that a new hedge has been planted between Butchers Piece and The Bull.

11.5 Public Rights of Way.

The mud on footpath BRAD 24/2 has only just dried out. This has been raised with the WBC Rights of Way team. Cllr. Bucknell will contact the landowner.

12 Date of next meeting:

SDPC: Monday 1st November 2021 at 7.30pm.

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

Signed:

Date: