

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

**Present:** Cllr. H. Fullerton; Cllr. E. Hanrahan; Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. C. Plank; Cllr. S. Logan;  
District Cllr. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).  
10 parishioners.

**1 Public Session.**

**1.1 Hunters Moon Farm.**

Proposals to replace the PVC conservatory with a tiled orangery and to change the existing garage into a pitched roof garage/barn structure were shared with those present. A planning application will be submitted to WBC over the coming weeks.

**1.2 Meadowside.**

Plans have been submitted to WBC for a modest sized agricultural barn on the agricultural land behind Meadowside. The barn will be steel framed with Yorkshire boarding and is situated outside of the conservation area. New access for the field and barn is being considered.

**1.3 Sovereign Housing Association Garages.**

A complaint has been lodged with Sovereign Housing Association about the fencing along the roadside, the garden waste which has been dumped in the vicinity and the broken manhole cover. The area looks a complete mess. It is understood that Sovereign Housing Association are replacing the broken manhole cover and surround, and the fencing. It was further reported that vehicles are parking on the grass, which is causing damage. It is thought that the garages are let out separately to the properties. The Clerk will write to Sovereign Housing Association and chase progress.

**1.4 Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF).**

Questions were asked about who represents Stanford Dingley on the PVFF and who is the flood warden.

**1.5 Dredge Gang and Events information on the Website.**

Cllr. Bucknell was asked to remove contact details of a parishioner from the website.

**1.6 Thames Water.**

Since the water main burst in the road to the north of St. Denys, it is understood that there remains an underground leak in the same place. The road surface has suffered as a result of the water from the burst and the ballast has been washed out from under the road.

**1.7 Fencing around the Village Field.**

The condition of the fencing around the Village Field and the resulting stray sheep were commented upon. Cllr. Fullerton will obtain quotes for replacement.

**2 Apologies.**

There were no apologies of absence.

**3 Declaration of Interests.**

**3.1 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.**

Cllr. Logan declared an interest in the application for Ingle Spring (22/01438/HOUSE) as an immediate neighbour.

**3.2 Updates to the Register of Interests.**

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

**4 Minutes of last meetings:**

**4.1 Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

## **5 Planning.**

### **5.1 To consider the following planning applications:**

#### **5.1.1 22/01438/HOUSE – Ingle Spring.**

*Section 73: Variation of Conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 4 (Windows/glazing/roof lantern) and 6 (Tree Protection Scheme) of previously approved application 21/01693/HOUSE: Demolition of existing store, conservatory and utility room. Conversion of existing garage to kitchen. Erection of single-storey and two-storey extensions to existing dwelling. Formation of bay window. And removal of existing chimney. Removal of 2 no. trees.*

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

#### **5.1.2 22/01929/HOUSE and 22/01930/LBC2 – The Garden House.**

*Removal of existing brick wall and fence, and erection of new boundary walls and gate. New canopy above back door.*

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

### **5.2 The following planning decisions have been made:**

#### **5.2.1 22/00374/LBC2 – Dumbledore.**

*Removal of 1980s brick fireplace surround to expose the inglenook behind.*

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

## **6 Stanford Dingley Community Resilience Project.**

There are two separate parts to this project:

1. To provide a backup power supply for the Club Rom in the case of power disruption using a generator.
2. To provide a pump and a second generator to prevent sewer flooding in the middle of the village.

It was proposed to separate out the two parts of the project and to move forwards with the backup generator for the Club Room.

However, there was concern about the second part of the project in terms of legal restrictions of where the sewage would be pumped.

Concern was raised about this decision on the basis that sewer flooding is more frequent than significant power outages.

### **6.1 Thames Water and the Sewer Flooding.**

Smoke testing of the sewer has been carried out by Thames Water to try and identify the water ingress points. However, it is difficult because sewage comes from Frilsham, Tutts Clump and Burnt Hill, and the flooding only occurs after heavy rain.

Thames Water committed to giving regular updates, however there have been no such updates.

It was acknowledged that the sewer flooding is a health hazard and takes a long time to go away.

It was agreed that parishioners would continue to chase and report issues to Thames Water. Cllr. Fullerton will chase Thames Water for an update.

## **7 Management of Parish Council Assets.**

### **7.1 Registration of the Club Room and the Village Green with the Land Registry.**

The Clerk will obtain quotes for registration with the Land Registry of:

- The Village Green, based upon the registration of the Green as a village green which states that it belongs to SDPC,
- The Club Room, based on the original conveyance document from 1975 transferring ownership of the Club Room from the Boys Club to SDPC.

### **7.2 The Club Room.**

Cllr. Fullerton reported that there is a problem with the booking form.

Cllr. Bucknell arranged for the windows to be cleaned.

A parishioner has fitted devices to all of the heaters so that they can be controlled using a mobile app.

- 7.3 The Village Field.  
Watering of the three cherry trees, planted at the entrance to the Village Field has continued all through the dry weather.  
Cllr. Fullerton will obtain quotes for the fencing.  
It is anticipated that dog training will resume on the Village Field from late September.
- 7.4 Bench around the Judas Tree (a plum leaved hawthorn) on the Village Green.  
Cllr. Fullerton identified a supplier of a teak bench in the right size, however, there was still a desire for the bench to be made of oak.  
Cllr. Logan will contact McCurdy's about the possibility of some oak planks to see if a repair is possible.
- 8 **District Councillor's Report.**  
District Cllr. Pask reported that, sadly, Stuart Clark the WBC chief drainage engineer died on Sunday.  
There have been a number of changes to personnel in the planning hierarchy at WBC.  
It was reported that the road to Burnt Hill has become very overgrown and questions were asked about who is responsible for cutting it back. It was noted that WBC has been focusing on sightlines.
- 9 **Village Design Statement.**  
It was agreed that all councillors would review and annotate the Village Design Statement in Word using track changes. Annotated copies are to be sent to Cllr. Hanrahan who will merge the edits and circulate a revised Village Design Statement prior to the next meeting (7<sup>th</sup> November).  
District Cllr. Pask commented that Village Design Statements used to be considered as supplementary planning guidance, however, they are now material consideration.
- 10 **Anti-Speeding Initiatives.**  
Cllr. Hanrahan has spoken to WBC Highways department and is staying in touch with the "20s plenty" group. WBC is not keen on 20 mph speed limits for a number of reasons. Whilst there have not been any recent complaints of speeding, some drivers speed towards the edge of the village.  
It was agreed that reminders should be sent to members of the WhatsApp group about keeping speeds low.  
There is generally insufficient traffic on the roads for the use of hand-held devices to be viable.
- 11 **Reports.**
- 11.1 The Knowledge and Core Skills Training (provided by HALC).  
Cllr. Logan attended "The Knowledge and Core Skills" training course provided by HALC. During the course, key points raised included all councillors having a parish council specific email address to circumvent any freedom of information requests resulting in trawling through all private emails, that all councillors are familiar with the Standing Orders and lastly about communication and asking the question "why would we not disclose this to parishioners?" rather than "Shall we communicate this to parishioners?"  
Other councillors were encouraged to attend the training if they were able.
- 11.2 Stanford Dingley Events Team.  
A village picnic is to be held on the Village Field on the 11<sup>th</sup> September.  
Other events planned include a Race Night in October, a bonfire night event (without fireworks) on 5<sup>th</sup> November, Champagne tasting in November and a children's Christmas party during December. Plans are also being made for a Christmas dinner with a band at The Bull on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.  
A copy of the Jubilee village photograph will be displayed on the noticeboard on the Village Green and is available to purchase.
- 11.3 Dredge Gang.

The Dredge Gang will be meeting in September. It was suggested that the Dredge Gang and Donnington Trust could work together to improve restricted byway STAN 1/3, Watery Lane which becomes impassable when wet.

**12 Clerk's Report.**

**12.1 WBC Planning Engagement Officer.**

Rowan Cole, the WBC Planning Engagement Officer will be at St. Peter's Church, Bradfield Southend on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 7.00pm until 7.30pm (when the Bradfield Parish Council meeting starts). Members of SDPC are invited to attend the session.

**12.2 Finances**

**12.2.1 To receive the financial statement dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

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

Greenham Common Trust	£100.00	Donation to WB CAB.
Post Office Ltd	£48.46	SSE 2/4/22 to 1/7/2022.
Phone box glazing	£457.20	Repairs to glazing.

A payment of £10.00 has been received from a parishioner for parking on the Village Field. Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £6,321.11. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 which showed a balance of £7,529.97. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,484.25 on the last statement dated the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022, giving a total of £14,014.22 on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**12.3 Correspondence.**

**12.3.1 West Berkshire Council – Devolution of Services.**

Whilst some services are being reduced, statutory services need to continue to be provided by WBC. It was agreed that SDPC should not take on the provision of any services from WBC.

**12.3.2 Appointment of External Auditor by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment (SAAA).**

It was resolved to accept the external auditor appointed by the SAAA.

**12.3.3 Request to publish the results of the Parish Survey.**

It was agreed that the PowerPoint presentation of the Parish Survey should be put on the website and also sent out to parishioners.

**13 Round Table Comments.**

**13.1** Thanks were extended to a number of parishioners who had stayed for the duration of the meeting.

**14 Date of next meetings:**

**SDPC: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:

Date: