

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. H. Fullerton (Chairman); Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. C. Plank; Cllr. S. Logan; District Cllr. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Six parishioners.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Potential District Councillor Candidate.

A resident of The Slade, Bucklebury introduced himself to SDPC as a potential candidate for the District Council elections in May 2023.

2 Apologies.

Apologies of absence have been received from Cllr. Hanrahan.

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 meetings:

4.1 Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 7th September 2022.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 were an accurate account of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

4.2 Updates on the minutes from SDPC meeting on 7th September.

4.2.1 Meadowlands.

The Clerk has contacted Sovereign Housing Association about the garages at Meadowlands. The damaged manhole has been replaced. Repairs or replacement of the guttering and the fencing will be carried out, but there is no current scheduled date for this work.

5 Planning.

5.1 To consider the following planning applications:

5.1.1 22/02015/FUL - Meadowside.

Agricultural storage building.

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

5.1.2 22/02737/HOUSE & 22/02738/LBC – Hunters Moon Farm (formerly Skillcroft).

Demolition of existing UPVC conservatory and replace with oak framed single storey extension, revise existing utility and open porch canopy and window to form entrance lobby and larder with new open porch to north elevation. Remove false pitch roof on south elevation, replace with standing seam roof, revise window opening above and insert new circular window. Revise position of internal stairs. Replace existing windows on modern projecting gable on east elevation with full height glazing, single storey bay with balcony above. Demolish existing flat roof garage and replace with new garage and studio. Alterations to driveway, new gate and revised parking arrangements. Replacement of water treatment facility.

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

5.2 The following planning decisions have been made:

5.2.1 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: 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.

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

5.2.2 22/01929/HOUSE & 22/01930/LBC – The Garden House.

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

SDPC had **no objection** to these applications which have been **approved** by WBC.

5.3 Planning decisions taken to appeal:

5.3.1 22/00918/FULD – Ivinghoe.

Replacement dwelling and landscape enhancements.

SDPC **objected** to this application which was **refused** by WBC. The applicant has taken this decision to appeal

6 Stanford Dingley Community Resilience Project.

6.1 Progress with Thames Water.

A meeting with Thames Water to discuss the sewer flooding has been arranged for 10th November (subsequently delayed until the 23rd November). Cllr. Logan has prepared an agenda for this meeting and visited all the residents who have been affected.

Cllr. Logan reported that, having carried out research on the problem, and having attended meetings of the Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF) the sewer flooding has been an issue since at least 2012.

There have been three leaks in the parish recently, the management of each of them by Thames Water has been extremely poor and very disappointing. A letter has been sent to the CEO of Thames Water and there has been correspondence with Laura Farris MP about the problem. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the board as well as the CEO about the unfulfilled promises concerning the recent leaks.

6.2 Progress with the backup generator aspect of the project.

The SSE resilient communities grant of £9,120 has been received. The remainder of the estimated, required funds now need to be clarified. District Cllr. Pask can submit a WBC Members bid (there is up to £3,000 available across the whole Bucklebury ward), subject to having the information. Completed applications must be submitted to WBC by 25th November.

There was a discussion about the training which would be required in order to operate the generator and what the ongoing commitment would be. The Clerk will attempt to identify other parishes who have invested in a generator and inquire about how they manage it.

Appreciation was expressed to the parishioner who has worked on this project.

7 Management of Parish Council Assets.

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

The Clerk has obtained a quote for first registration of the Village Green and the Club Room of £1,000 plus VAT plus land registry fees, which are based on the value of the land being registered.

It was suggested that hard copy of the Village Green registration and the conveyance document of the Club Room would need to be sent to the company concerned.

It was agreed that the Clerk would seek a second quote with the intention of going ahead with the most cost-effective quote to a maximum of £1,000 for the registration plus the land registry fees.

7.2 The Club Room.

Cllr. Bucknell reported that she has added an online calendar to the web site and the ability to take bookings is back up and running.

A window cleaner will be cleaning the outside of the Club Room windows once every three months. Cleaning of the facility is needed on an ad-hoc basis.

The hall has been booked by the Events Committee to run a wreath making session and for the children's Christmas party.

A parishioner will be replacing the toilet seat and the front door lock.

A parishioner was thanked for installing smart heating and Wi-Fi controlled plugs for the fridge and water heater.

An electric certificate needs to be obtained for the Club Room, it was agreed to first ask a parishioner and if he can't do it, or isn't able to, a contractor will be employed.

7.3 The Village Field.

Cllr. Bucknell is awaiting wording for the plaque by the "Blossom into Spring" cherry trees. Fuel costs for cutting the Village Field have increased to £180; the Clerk will arrange for a cheque for the parishioner who cuts the field.

Concern has been raised by parishioners about the state of the fence around the field, particularly as sheep are escaping into the Village Field. Cllr. Fullerton will obtain quotes for posts, stock fencing and a single strand of plain wire on the south and east boundaries. It was also noted that the tree dumped behind the houses in the field needs to be removed.

7.4 Bench around the Judas Tree (a plum leaved hawthorn) on the Village Green.

Cllr. Logan reported that he had had a meeting about the bench and has the original drawings for it. He will remove and replace the seat slats with oak donated to the parish.

8 District Councillor's Report.

8.1 Planning.

There is a full meeting of WBC on 1st December, when it is anticipated that the next draft of the Local Plan will be approved for the Regulation 19 consultation. The consultation will last at least six weeks.

WBC has now adopted an Enforcement Policy. Two virtual training sessions have been organised for parish councillors about enforcement, on the 23rd November and the 30th November.

Bob Dray has now been appointed as the Interim Development Control Manager.

8.2 Budget.

During COVID, the demand for adult social care reduced, however it has now increased and puts increased pressure on the budget.

9 Village Design Statement.

No progress has been made with the revised version of the Village Design Statement. It was agreed that a separate session was needed, before the next meeting to go through it.

10 Anti-Speeding Initiatives.

There was no update on the speeding initiative.

11 Reports.

11.1 Stanford Dingley Events Team.

The Village picnic planned for the 11th September was cancelled following the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Many people attended the memorial service held at St. Denys on that day. The Tallest Cabbage competition was held on the 23rd October.

There is a Christmas party planned in the Bull on the evening of 3rd December with a meal and a disco (tickets to be purchased in advance), followed by a children's party on the 4th December. Wreath making sessions have been organised in the Club Room on both the 6th and 7th December. Further events are planned for 2023.

11.2 Dredge Gang.

Tasks for the Dredge Gang include clearing the drains of leaves, clearing the leaves in the church yard and removing the tree from the Village Field.

11.3 Public Rights of Way.

There has been no work on Watery Lane (restricted byway STAN 1/3). District Cllr. Pask will chase this up.

A tree came down near the Blue Pool which blocked the path, but this has been cleared and chipped. The bridge across the river has been replaced.

11.4 Digitisation of the Stanford Dingley Archives.

The archive file on St. Denys has been scanned and the resulting work inspected. It was agreed to have the remaining eight files scanned at a total cost of £220. Cllr. Logan expressed his need for the files to be returned to him as quickly as possible given that he is working from them on a frequent basis.

12 Clerk's Report.

12.1 Finances

12.1.1 To receive the financial statement dated 7th November 2022.

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

Expenses	£45.00	Club Room window cleaning x 2.
Post Office Ltd	£48.46	SSE 2/7/2022 to 1/10/22.
Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£168.48	Bin emptying July to December 2022.

The following payments have been received:

Club Room rental	£198.00	From the Events team and a local business.
Scottish Southern	£9,120.00	Community resilience grant.
WBC	£2,500.00	Second half of the precept.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £17,882.43. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 31st October 2022 which showed a balance of £17,972.11. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,485.03 on the last statement dated the 31st October 2022, giving a total of £24,457.14.

12.1.2 Verification of Financial Statement against the Bank Statement.

Cllr. Logan verified that the figures shown on the financial statement are in accord with the bank statements.

12.1.3 Review of expenditure up to 31st September 2022.

The expenditure for the financial year to the 31st September 2022 was reviewed against the budget. It was agreed to make a payment to the Pang Valley Flood Forum of £100 and to WBC for libraries of £200 as per the budget.

12.1.4 Draft budget for FY22/23.

Councillors commented that funds need to be allocated in the budget for the fencing around the Village Field and for IT provision.

12.2 Correspondence.

12.2.1 West Berkshire Council – Enforcement Training (23/11/22@2pm or 30/11/22@6pm).

12.2.2 BALC AGM – Wednesday 9th November 7pm for 7.30pm at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley.

12.2.3 WBC Cost of Living Hub.

It was noted that the WBC Cost of Living Hub has been funded jointly between WBC and Greenham Common Trust.

12.2.4 Free Christmas Shopper Service.

12.2.5 Carers Rights Day Event – 25th November.

13 Round Table Comments.

13.1 Parking provision in the Village.

There was a brief discussion about the need for parking in the Village and how this might be achieved.

14 Date of next meetings:

SDPC: Wednesday 4th January 2022 at 7.30pm

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

Signed:

Date: