

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. H. Fullerton; Cllr. E. Hanrahan; Cllr. S. Logan; Cllr. T. Rudd;
District Cllr. C. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Twelve members of the public.

1 **Election of a Chairman.**

Cllr. Logan proposed that Cllr. Hanrahan be Chairman of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) for the coming year. This was seconded by Cllr. Fullerton and unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Hanrahan signed his declaration of office of Chairman.

Cllr. Hanrahan thanked Cllr. Fullerton for all the hard work he has carried out as the previous Chairman of SDPC.

2 **Election of a Vice Chairman.**

Cllr. Hanrahan proposed that Cllr. Logan be Vice Chairman of SDPC. This was seconded by Cllr. Fullerton and unanimously agreed.

3 **Apologies.**

There were no apologies for absence.

4 **Declaration of Interests.**

4.1 **Declarations of Interests for the Register.**

All councillors were given a Declaration of Interest form to complete.

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

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

5 **Public Session.**

5.1 **Light aircraft.**

Frustration was raised about the number of light air craft carrying out acrobatic manoeuvres on, what seems to be, a daily basis. It was noted that all planes must fly at over 500feet. The planes are thought to come from either White Waltham or Popham air fields and are thought to be paid flights. It was suggested that the registration number of the planes and the times of the flights be recorded before making a call to the air fields.

6 **Minutes of last meetings:**

6.1 **Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th March 2023.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 6th March 2023 were an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

6.2 **Extra Ordinary meeting on Tuesday 25th April 2023.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

7 **Corporate Documents and the Asset Register.**

7.1 **Standing Orders.**

The Standing Orders were reviewed against the model Standing Orders and no updates were considered necessary.

7.2 **Financial Regulations.**

The Financial Regulations were reviewed against the model Financial Regulations and no updates were considered necessary.

7.3 **Code of Conduct.**

The Clerk advised that the current Code of Conduct predates the last model Code of Conduct which was produced in response to the Civility and Respect pledge. The Clerk will explore options with a view to adopting a revised Code of Conduct at the next full meeting of SDPC.

HP

7.4	<p><u>Asset Register.</u> The Hoover, dehumidifier and the remote wifi hubs need to be added to the Asset Register. The Club Room needs to be revalued.</p>	HP
8	<p><u>Insurance Provision.</u> The insurance policy runs from 7th June 2023 to 6th June 2024. The renewal quote received through Zurich Municipal is £549.42. It was agreed to renew the policy with Zurich.</p>	
9	<p><u>Communication with Parishioners.</u> SDPC is keen to improve communications with parishioners. In order to do this, meeting dates will be published in NewsLink, on the website, and on the noticeboards. A summary of each meeting will be submitted to NewsLink. There was a discussion about communicating with parishioners on planning applications and that any communication must be consistent. SDPC agreed to send out an email and a WhatsApp message whenever it is notified, by WBC, of a planning application. A Chairman's letter, delivered to each house in the parish was seen as a positive way of communicating with parishioners.</p>	HP EH
10	<p><u>Dates for ordinary meetings for the year.</u> Meetings for the coming year will be held in the Club Room, starting at 7.30pm on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 8th August • Tuesday 26th September • Tuesday 28th November • Tuesday 23rd January 2024 • Tuesday 26th March 2024 • Tuesday 23rd April 2024 (Annual Parish Assembly) • Tuesday 21st May 2024 (Annual Council meeting) 	
11	<p>There will be an extra ordinary meeting on Tuesday 27th June 2023 to receive the internal auditors report, claim exemption from a limited assurance review, to consider the Annual Governance statement and to approve the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023.</p> <p><u>Village Resilience Working Party.</u> It was agreed that a Working Party would be set up to consider the various proposals for community resilience and to make a recommendation to SDPC, which once approved by SDPC, the Working Party can then implement. A parishioner did a lot of early work and was awarded a grant of £9,120 from the SSE Resilience fund, for a generator to supply the Club Room. The Working Party will consider the different options and put forward a proposal to SDPC at the extra ordinary meeting on the 27th June.</p>	
12	<p><u>Flooding.</u> Cllr. Logan reported that the Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF) website contains an awful lot of data including the monthly rainfall against the historic monthly rainfall. September 2022 had 118% of the average historical monthly rainfall and March 2023 had 275%. Whilst Stanford Dingley does suffer from fluvial flooding, there is significantly more sewer flooding. A Stanford Dingley Flood Alleviation Scheme was drawn up by Stuart Clark at WBC, but the status of this project is unknown. Cllr. Logan has spoken to Laura Farris's (MP) office and requested its status from WBC. The storm tank at the sewage pumping station contains no monitors and is understood to leak. Thames Water have identified that the sewer between St. Denys and the pumping station leaks and are planning to line this part of it when it is dry. The impact of the work to line the sewer will be significant as the road through the village will be closed. Thames Water are unable to give a schedule for when they're planning to complete the work.</p>	

The perched water table at Frilsham will continue to cause issues after heavy rainfall. Cllr. Logan has proposed that a reed bed system in the dry valley to the east of Mazelands Farm could be used to manage the excess water.

A suggestion was put forwards that the revised Village Design Statement should contain information on floodplain land and that the statement should support no building on the floodplain. However, this raised the question of what is the floodplain and what other implications this might have.

13 Tree Planting.

In 1973, over 100 trees were planted in Stanford Dingley. In the Parish Survey 80% of parishioners said they would like to plant trees.

The current phase 1 plan is to help parishioners plant trees in their gardens. Two weekends will be set aside in the Autumn, when parishioners can identify where they would like to plant a tree and advice will be available on what sort of tree would be suitable for the position in order to get “the right tree in the right place”. It will be up to parishioners to purchase the tree; help with planting will be available if necessary.

Planting of a coppice and/or a community orchard on the Village Field was discussed, although it was noted that watering will be required. It was also suggested that a survey of the hedges around the Village Field be carried out with a view to them being laid. The West Berkshire Countryside Society may be able to help with this.

There was a desire from some parishioners to see more trees on verges and on public rights of way; it was noted that planting trees in gardens was phase 1.

14 Village Security.

Cllr. Logan reported that two new neighbourhood watch co-ordinators have come forwards and submitted their papers to Angela Money, the Chairman of Thatcham and Newbury Neighbourhood Watch. It was suggested co-ordinators should be aware of who has private CCTV, in the instance where information may have inadvertently been captured.

It was confirmed that the PCSO covering Stanford Dingley is Sarah Preston.

15 Village Heritage.

Cllr. Logan has spoken to Sue Ellis, following her interesting talk at the Annual Parish Assembly. She is very interested in the archive, a walk around the village and the cast iron pump opposite Casey Court. It is important that the built heritage is preserved, but it is important that residents are not compromised. If properties are to be locally listed, it will be a consultative approach.

Cllr. Logan will give Cllr. Bucknell a memory stick containing the parish archives.

16 Parish Council Assets.

16.1 The Village Field.

SDPC was asked if dog training could take place in the Village Field again. SDPC was in agreement that it could.

16.2 The Club Room.

The Club Room was used as a polling station in the elections, where to send the invoice needs to be determined.

It was agreed that the local pubs be asked to advocate use of the Club Room to their customers.

Arrangements need to be made for housing the keys for access to the Club Room; the key to the internal door is too large for the existing key safe.

17 The Village Design Statement.

Further amendments need to be made to the Design Statement about the floodplain.

The process to get the revised Design Statement adopted needs to be confirmed.

18 District Councillors Reports.

SL

The new WB Council disagreed with the inclusion of THA20 in the draft Local Plan on the basis that it is flawed and want to rework that part of the Plan, however it is currently with the Planning Inspector. There are a number of brown field sites which could have been included but weren't and there is a lack of understanding of why.

A campus style replacement is needed for Kennet School, but this is complicated by the fact that the Kennet School is an academy.

It is understood that the new Chairman of the Planning Committee, Tony Vickers is keen to make some major modifications and is expecting a three month delay and a repeat of the Regulation 19 consultation.

The new council is working with Volker to improve the quality of repairs to potholes. Potholes, meeting the criteria should be fixed with a quality repair in 72 hours. Flexibility for engineers to repair neighbouring potholes at the same time needs to be addressed. Consultations are currently taking place on Social Care, Special Education Needs Children and the older population.

19 Clerk's Report.

19.1 Finances

19.1.1 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.

19.1.2 To receive the financial statement dated 22nd May 2023.

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

BME Imaging Ltd	£330.00	Scanning Village archives.
Playsafety Ltd.	£90.00	RoSPA inspection of log tangle.
Triangle Management Company Ltd	£84.24	Emptying of bins on Village Green – April, May and June 2023.
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	£50.76	BALC membership.
Expenses	£36.00	Cleaning Club Room windows

Since the beginning of the financial year, £40 has been received for hire of the Club Room and £2,500 from WBC; the first half of the precept.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £18,539.74. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 28th April 2023 which showed a balance of £16,630.74. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,500.45 on the last statement dated the 28th April 2023, giving an overall total of £23,131.19. The sum of £9,120 is ring fenced for community resilience.

It was resolved to pay the revised CPRE membership of £60.

Electricity for the Club Room from the 2nd January 2023 to 1st April 2023 cost £68.19; this was offset by £150 credit from the Government. The current electricity contract expires on 31st January 2024.

20 Date of next meetings:

Extra ordinary meeting: Tuesday 27th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room
SDPC: Tuesday 8th August 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed:

Date: