

**Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 27th June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. E. Hanrahan (Chairman); Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. H. Fullerton; Cllr. S. Logan; Cllr. T. Rudd; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Six members of the public.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Dredge Gang Activities.

A parishioner praised the programme of activities for the upcoming Dredge Gang morning. It is a brilliant set of volunteers who all need to be thanked.

1.2 Council Tax.

Parishioners don't feel that get value for money in terms of the Council Tax they pay. The only benefit they believe they receive is the roads, which are poorly maintained and need repair. Cllr. Logan commented that he will be walking the parish roads with District Cllr. Read and identifying overhanging trees, pot holes and locations where gravel has been washed into the road; all of these items need to be addressed.

2 Apologies.

There were no apologies of absence.

3 Declaration of Interests.

3.1 Updates to the Register of Interests.

There were no updates to the Register of Interests.

3.2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4 Audit.

4.1 Internal Audit.

The internal auditor has completed her work and identified the following:

- The Asset Register should be updated to include the dehumidifier, the remote wifi hubs and the vacuum cleaner (total cost £637.37).
- The VAT reclaim submitted prior to the year end, but received in the current financial year should be included in the current years accounts because the financial statements are prepared on a cash basis.
- The Club Room value should be reviewed.
- The signed minutes on the website should show who signed them and on what date.
- The Risk Policy Statement has not been reviewed during the year and should be reviewed at least annually.
- There are two payments where the reported amount in the minutes does not match the accounts: Zurich Municipal (insurance) the minutes state £548.26 and the actual amount was £509.64, and the BALC membership was £49.79 rather than the documented £509.64.
- Cheque stubs should be initialled by those who have signed the cheque; there are seven cheques where the stub has not been initialled by both signatories.

4.2 Exemption from Limited Assurance Review.

It was resolved that SDPC is eligible to claim exemption from a limited assurance review on the basis that income and expenditure were both under £25,000 for the financial year ending 31st March 2023 and the external auditor had not raised a public interest report in respect of the previous financial year. It was therefore resolved to claim exemption from limited assurance review.

4.3 Annual Governance Statement.

SDPC considered each of the statements in the Annual Governance Statement, before SDPC resolving to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

4.4 Annual Statement of Accounts.

SDPC resolved to approve the Annual Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023.

5 Community Resilience.

The Community Resilience Working Group met on the 25th May 2023 and discussed the proposals for the Club Room Generator/Resilience project.

The different options had been discussed and all parties agreed that a single large unit to power all elements of the Club Room would be the recommended proposal as it would mean less maintenance. It was agreed that installation of the recommended Hyundai DHY18COM-1 generator could be completed without the use of a crane, saving £1,460. This, together with the reclaimed VAT should give a total of £3,300 which is sufficient for 9 years of professional maintenance (at current costs) or almost 30 years of villager maintenance/servicing.

It was suggested that the maintenance fund, or SDPC cover the running costs in the case of emergency.

More work is needed on the installation plan, which will include the digging of the hole, spreading the spoil, laying the concrete base and preparing the base.

It was unanimously agreed that SDPC should purchase the generator and cover the installation costs.

6 Planning.

6.1 To consider the following planning application:

6.1.1 **23/01374/LBC - Dumbledore.**

To remove the concrete floor to the Dining Room, lower the floor construction by 100mm and create a limecrete floor. Remove the gypsum plaster to the internal Dining Room walls. Adjust the modern staircase from the Dining Room to the first floor to accommodate the reduced floor level. To extend the modern entrance door which opens directly into the Dining Room by adding a weatherboard to the door leaf.

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

7 Round Table Comments.

7.1 Flooding.

As a result of Laura Farris MP's office applying pressure to Thames Water, the sewer between St. Denys and the pumping station should be lined in October. Thames Water are also going to seal the manholes; concern has been raised that this will simply increase the pressure elsewhere in the sewer.

Whilst lining this section of the sewer is positive, it is believed that the main cause of the problem is water ingress into the sewer resulting from the perched water table in Frilsham. The idea of a reedbed to the east of Mazelands Farm to hold some of the water is being discussed.

7.2 Flood Wardens.

Two parishioners have agreed to become flood wardens. They requested permission to contact Thames Water about potential flooding of property and basic equipment. It was noted that you can report a location of flooding to Thames Water. It was suggested that the flood wardens produce a list of the equipment they would like.

WBC were requested to clear the drains on a regular basis.

Clarification was requested on the status of the Stanford Dingley Flood Alleviation Scheme.

7.3 Neighbourhood Watch.

The parish now has four Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, including one in Casey Court. It is hoped that this will help integrate Casey Court into the community.

- 7.4 Tree Planting.
A plan of action has been produced. Over two days in November, trees will be planted in gardens. Information will be distributed to parishioners via email, WhatsApp and hardcopy.
There was a discussion about planting some trees, possibly a community orchard on the Village Field. This would need to be carried out in consultation with the neighbours. A wildflower meadow was also suggested. Before any of these ideas can move forwards, a management plan needs to be considered for any trees planted and the Village field itself. It was noted that agricultural grants are changing, however a grant application is being made for the fencing at the far end of the Village Field by the farmer.
- 7.5 Skip on verge outside Casey Court.
A skip has been left on the verge outside a Casey Court property following the residents moving out. A parishioner will phone the skip company and if no progress can be made with its removal, will contact SDPC.
- 7.6 Heritage Assets.
A small group of interested parishioners are working to restore the Village Pump opposite Casey Court which is believed to date from 1910. It is hoped to get the pump locally listed, it being complete and one of the best preserved in Berkshire.
It is also hoped to put the Club Room forwards for local listing, but SDPC, as the owner needs to agree.
- 8 **Date of next meetings:**
SDPC: Tuesday 8th August 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Date: