

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 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; District Cllr. C. Read.

**1 Public Session.**

**1.1 The Bull.**

Several Parishioners raised the issue of ‘vexatious’ complaints at the Bull and questioned whether this amounted to harassment of the landlord? Several expressed concern that they did not want such complaints to make life difficult for the Landlord as the Bull was seen as a vital resource for the village and they felt the landlord went out of his way to communicate with neighbours.

Action: EH to write a letter of support to WBC saying that SDPC supports the pub in general.

Action: HF to speak to the complainants.

EH

HF

**1.2 Damage to the Bridge.**

WBC Highways have said it is not urgent and they will put it on their list of repairs. It is unlikely to be done any time soon.

**1.3 Ban on the sale of new oil and gas boilers.**

A parishioner asked about the issue of Government law to ban the sale of new oil and gas boilers from 2026. What could the village do proactively to help adapt before then?

**2 Apologies.**

Apologies of absence were received from Mrs. Pratt, the Clerk and District Cllr. Chris Read.

**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 Approval of minutes of SDPC meetings**

**4.1 Annual meeting of SDPC held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the annual meeting of SDPC held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 were an accurate record of the meeting, however Councillor Bucknell felt that they did not represent what had actually been said. Cllr. Hanrahan said that issue should be discussed separately.

**4.2 Extra Ordinary meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June.**

It was resolved that the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Hanrahan.

**5 Planning.**

**5.1 Village Design Statement.**

Cllr. Hanrahan said that he had signed it off after West berks’ minor changes – albeit there was some confusion between West Berks representative and EH. EH undertook to follow it up in September when all were back from holiday.

EH

**6 District Councillors Report (submitted prior to the meeting).**

WBC is working with Solar Together Berkshire to help homeowners through a group buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage.

WBC has a “catch up” strategy to handle the backlog of planning applications. WBC appreciates the frustration caused by the delays and asks that applicants and agents bear with WBC whilst undertaking improvement measures.

District Cllr. Read questioned whether rural verges were genuinely getting two cuts a year. Whilst there is a drive to keep biodiversity in verges, this should not be at the cost of safety.

Community Forums, operating in a hybrid manner with members of the Executive and either the Chief Executive or an Executive Director will be returning. This will ensure there is positive engagement and information views are gathered to inform WBC decisions. The first forum will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm on the sports ground at Faraday Road.

7 **Community Resilience.**

Chris Dent walked the village through the plan and said it was hoped that the generator would be installed by end September.

8 **Flooding.**

Road Closure: Wed 25<sup>th</sup> September. All people notified. Some questions sent back to Thames Water. 150m sections at a time. (yes there will be access). It will always be one way. This will be notified. To be re-opened at the weekends. Pedestrian access? Yes. To be carried out over four weeks. There were questions asked as to whether this work will solve the problem. SL spoke about the matter. He said that the lead engineer had said that they had detected large amounts of water ingress in the area of the church, (thus this should be part of the cause).

EH: Unusual flooding outside The Boot. What is the reason for this? A tree that has come down near the cross roads? Building work at Barn House or Garden House? Further investigation needed.

9 **Tree Planting.**

Plan is out there for a tree planting day in November. Plan to register all trees and place a record of the weekend on SD website. HF idea to find self-planted saplings along hedge roadsides that would normally be cut down in late November during hedge cutting.

10 **Parish Council Assets.**

10.1 **The Club Room.**

10.1.1 **Removal of the Leylandii.**

EH asked the room if they felt this was good use of the PC funds. Most thought it was so it was resolved to book in Arborist. EH agreed to apply for the required planning consents.

10.1.2 **Club Room Door.**

The door needs to be either repaired or replaced. Decision: New outside door. Internal lock: Tom has new keylock, just needs to be fitted and paid for.

10.1.3 **Refurbishment of the decking behind the Club Room.**

To be looked at post generator implementation.

10.2 **The Village Field.**

The team are coming up with a plan (Barry, Carol +Stuart). Quote needed into SDPC by 18<sup>th</sup> August. Suggestion is an orchard in the Village Field of 12-14 trees. Feeling amongst those present was evenly split. Dissenters talked of fallen fruit. Idea to collect not just this fruit (in the future) but all wasted fruit from the village. Also issue of how much space will be used up by planting all the fruit trees. Stuart and Barry agreed to show the plans to the village prior to work starting. EH agreed to help with grant applications.

10.3 **Applying for a WBC Members Bid.**

EH agreed to lead but would need more detail from Barry and Stuart about what was planned on the village field.

**11 Village Heritage – The Village Archive.**

**11.1 Village Archive.**

Some of the Village Archive documents have been digitised and put into SDPC Dropbox. But it is not in order and needs organising. This is just the first step. Question about data protection. Is there any threat to people who are part of the archive material who are still alive? SL has done work on history of village (70% complete). He wanted to know from Parishioners what he should do with this work.

**11.2 Village Pump.**

SL asked if the pump work could be expanded and funded from SDPC funds. EH said probably not, but possibility to include it in the ‘village renovation’ grant. EH said in general all expenditure needs to be agreed ahead of time and any large items need to be quoted for.

SL asked if this plan could be approved now. HF, EH and AB said no, this needs to be quoted and voted for.

**12 Finances**

**To receive the financial statement dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

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

CPRE	£60.00	Membership
Zurich Municipal	£549.42	Insurance
Picture Framing	£110.00	
CB Heslop and Company Ltd	£18.00	Payroll services
Salaries, PAYE	£728.00	January to June 2023
Internal Audit	£50.00	
Abbey Access Ltd	£6,339.94	Generator

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £10,834.38. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 which showed a balance of £17,940.32. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,508.29 on the last statement dated the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, giving an overall total of £24,448.61. The sum of £2,780.06 is ring fenced for community resilience, prior to reclaiming any VAT.

**13 Date of next meetings:**

**SDPC: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.**

Signed:

Date: