

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room, Stanford Dingley.**

Present: Cllr. E. Hanrahan (Chairman); Cllr. S. Logan; Cllr. T. Rudd; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk);
District Cllr. C. Read.

Members of the Public.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Communications.

SDPC was asked whether anyone from the Council met new residents and welcomed them; yes, they do assuming that someone on SDPC is aware that they have arrived. Information is put up on the noticeboards, there are the WhatsApp groups, Email and NewsLink.

Parishioners were asked whether they thought the agenda was too crowded.

The newest resident of the parish baby Inigo Middleton was welcomed.

1.2 Rights of Way.

A lot of mountain bikes have been observed on footpaths.

There was a discussion about the state of Watery Lane and the possibility of putting chippings down.

2 Apologies.

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr. Bucknell and Cllr. Fullerton.

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 22nd May 2023.

It was resolved that the minutes of the annual meeting of SDPC held on Monday 22nd May 2023 were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Hanrahan.

4.2 Meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 8th August 2023.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 8th August 2023 were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Hanrahan.

5 Planning.

5.1 23/01276/FUL & 01277/LBC – The Bull.

Retrospective approval for fabric tent dining space, trailer bar and refrigerated storage trailer.

SDPC **supported** this application.

Parishioners had questioned why SDPC had supported the application and it was explained that a canvassing of the ‘majority’ of neighbours had shown support.

Complaints to WBC about The Boot, have resulted in the WBC enforcement team visiting and raising concerns about the teepee.

There was a discussion about how SDPC can best support both of the pubs in the parish to keep trading successfully. Both landlords will be invited to a future meeting.

5.2 WBC decisions on Planning applications:

5.2.1 23/00784/FUL – Oaken.

Change of use to equestrian, including new vehicular access and blocking up of existing, new stable block and landscaping works.

SDPC **objected** to this application which has been **refused** by WBC.

- 5.3 **Village Design Statement.**
Cllr. Hanrahan has been in discussions with WBC planning department about the Village Design Statement. There are three questions to be answered and then it can go to consultation.
- 6 **District Councillors Report.**
There are a number of consultations running at the moment, including the Rights of Way improvement plan, better value for Special Education Needs (SEN) particularly given the increase in numbers, and a SEN and disability strategy.
Thames Water have been ordered to pay WBC £10,000 due to poor road repairs.
Free soil conditioner has been made available from the Padworth recycling centre last weekend and free food caddy liners are available from the Council Offices until the end of the month.
The WBC Scrutiny Committee is meeting on the 11th October and will be challenging Thames Water and the EA about the state of the River Pang.
Laura Farris MP is hosting a careers fair, whilst it is free, places have to be booked.
A survey will be coming out shortly for parents on childcare provision. The Badgers Hill facility at Calcot has been refurbished and is now fully open.
The Newbury Lido is now also fully open.
District Cllr. Read has walked the main roads of Stanford Dingley with Cllr. Logan and inspected the potholes and gulleys. Of the potholes reported to WBC, five were dismissed and three were accepted. The reporting system is going through a transition, but needs to be more user friendly. There also needs to be more co-ordination with utilities carrying out work, so that roads do not have to be closed on so many occasions. SSE are currently refurbishing their network, as a result all areas have been supplied from generators, which has caused short outages. It was suggested that any vulnerable residents should be checked.
- 7 **Condition of the Pang.**
After the down grading of the condition of the River Pang, Cllr. Rudd has written to Richard Benyon, and Cllr. Hanrahan and Cllr. Logan have both written to Laura Farris MP, asking for a question to be raised in The House.
Cllr. Hanrahan has also written to the Environment Agency and Natural England.
- 8 **Community Resilience.**
Before the generator can be installed, the leylandii trees behind the Club Room need to be felled. A tree application has been submitted to WBC for this work (the trees are in the Conservation area).
- 9 **Flooding.**
Cllr. Logan has written to Julie Molton at Thames Water and stated that lining the sewer from St. Denys to Bradfield Farm would not end the sewer flooding.
The Pang Valley Flood Forum (PVFF) has data, and is collecting more data, to demonstrate that the road flooding in Stanford Dingley correlates with high rain fall events in Frilsham.
There is to be a PVFF exhibition to help reduce the risk of flooding in Hampstead Norreys Village Hall on the 4th November. *This was cancelled due to one of the Trustees being murdered in Uganda.*
- 10 **Tree Planting.**
So far, five people have signed up for planting trees. Another reminder will be sent out.
- 11 **Parish Council Assets.**
- 11.1 **The Club Room.**
- 11.1.1 **Removal of the Leylandii.**

The tree application for the felling of the leylandii trees has been chased on three separate occasions. There has been no response from Jon Thomas or Paul Hendry. As from the 2nd October, the trees can be felled.

It is proposed to renovate the spaced behind the Club Room with some decking.

11.2 The Village Field.

The cost of the project on the Village field needs to be reduced and the exact amounts available will be seen after the WBC Members Bids have been determined.

11.3 Update on Grant Funding.

Cllr. Hanrahan reported that SDPC will also apply for a Veolia grant to help fund a 'phase two' of the work on the Village Field, the determination date of which is the 5th December or a later window.

A Members Bid has been submitted for the work on the Village pump. It was suggested that this was a prime example of a heritage asset within the community which should be preserved by Sue Ellis of the West Berkshire Heritage Forum.

12 Reports.

12.1 Events Committee.

No events were held over the summer due to large numbers of parishioners being away for the school holidays.

At a meeting planned for 28th September future events and how the Events team will work going forwards will be discussed. The team has a robust number of volunteers including two from Tutts Clump. Whilst large community events, like the Coronation are well attended, there is little enthusiasm for individual events. A flyer, requesting suggestions, resulted in one response and it is proving a challenge to generate interest.

It is planned to hold the village Christmas Party in The Boot Inn.

The Events Team would welcome any suggestions for events.

The Events Team current account balance is £817.15.

13 Finances

To receive the financial statement dated 26th September 2023.

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

Triangle Management Company Ltd	£84.24	Bin emptying – July, August & September 2023.
Social Rebel Ltd	£52.79	Domain name renewal for 3 years.
Expenses	£376.90	Generator installation and postage.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £10,320.45. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 31st August 2023 which showed a balance of £10,834.38. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,517.53 on the last statement dated the 31st August 2023, giving an overall total of £17,351.91. The sum of £2,409.16 is ring fenced for community resilience, prior to reclaiming any VAT.

14 There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

15 Date of next meetings:

SDPC: Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

Signed:

Date: