

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 19th March 2024 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. Read; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).
Five members of the public.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Parking for St. Deny's.

There is growing concern about the parking provision for St. Deny's Church. It had hoped that church goers could park in the Village Field, adjacent to St. Deny's. However, SDPC are reluctant for there to be parking in the Village Field on a regular basis. Grasscrete was suggested, but wasn't felt to fulfil the requirement to prevent degradation of the surface. Parking on the road has the potential to block the road for farm machinery. Other alternatives were discussed including use of the pub car park.

1.2 Road signage.

Signs warning of sewage in the road have been delivered to the village.

1.3 Events Committee.

The Events Committee is a stand-alone group and not a committee of the Parish Council. There was a discussion about whether or not the Events Committee should be charged for use of the Club Room, following an invoice being sent for an event for which the Committee had to clean the facility prior to the event taking place. Cllr. Bucknell had cleaned the Club Room three times during December and January.

2 Apologies.

Apologies of absence were received from District Cllr. 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 the last SDPC meeting.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of SDPC held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed by Cllr. Hanrahan.

5 Planning.

No planning applications have been received for consultation and no planning decisions have been made within the parish.

5.1 Kingsmead, Jennets Hill.

It was reported that scalplings have been laid from the road to the rear of the property. An aluminium framed garage on a concrete base has been constructed to the left of the entrance. It was agreed that this should be reported to WBC Enforcement.

6 District Councillors Report.

District Cllr. Read has been very helpful in obtaining support from the WBC Highways department.

7 Flooding (update from the Flood Warden).

Road drain and sewer overflows, with very high ground water levels have taken place on: 19th January (Store Isha), 22nd to 23rd January, 9th to 10th February, 18th to 19th February, 22nd to 23rd February, 2nd to the 3rd March.

On the 12th to 13th March, there was sewer overflow, but no road flooding.

Members of the community (not SDPC) have contributed towards the purchase of a high-level Trash pump with accessories to take the flood water away from the road.

Back Lane Flooding

HP

Back Lane flooding has persisted throughout the winter. This has resulted in the road having deep underwater pot holes and being covered in mud. There are indications that WBC has a potential solution but it can not be implemented until permission has been obtained from the landowner.

Drains at Centre of the village

These remain partially blocked and due to the high river levels cannot be fully jetted to clear the outlet pipes.

8 The Club Room.

It was agreed that a request be put out to the community for volunteer cleaners, with the aim of setting up a cleaning rota. Ideally someone needs to be found to complete routine maintenance. It was suggested that a discount be given to parish volunteers for use of the Club Room. Cllr. Fullerton will clean the Club Room initially and instigate the rota.

HF

8.1 Replacement Door.

The replacement door is scheduled to arrive with the installers on the 25th March and will probably be installed during the second week of April.

AB

Cllr. Fullerton will resolve the issues with locking the existing door.

HF

8.2 Replacement Hob

Now that an electrical inspection has been carried out, the new hob can be ordered.

AB

9 Projects.

9.1 Community Resilience / Update on the Generator.

The generator will be moved from the barn at Fairholme Farm to the plinth behind the Club Room on Wednesday 20th March. There was some question about plans going forwards for the electrical installation of the generator.

9.2 The Village Field.

Fruit trees have been planted in the Village Field and a traditional wassailing ceremony took place. Cllr. Hanrahan will measure the distance from the tap to the trees and work out the best method of watering.

Wild flower plugs and seeds will be planted over the next week.

10 Website.

The current website costs approximately £300 per year including the domain name registration and the hosting. This is paid for up to January 2026. Alternatives are available at a lower cost.

Cllr. Bucknell commented that whilst she had developed the site, she had always made it clear that content was required from other people. The Club Room website has been migrated onto the SDPC website.

It was questioned how much of the website is actually required by law (under the Transparency Code).

It was agreed to put the website on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr. Bucknell and Cllr. Hanrahan will work together to clarify how much the website is being used and by whom (where this is possible).

EH
AB

11 Reports.

11.1 Events Committee.

On Saturday June 8th there is to be a fete/Party in the Paddock to commemorate 80 years since the D-Day landings.

Monthly pub nights are generally going well; the next one is scheduled to take place on the 28th March.

11.2 Dredge Gang.

Whilst there have been no Dredge Gang parties as such, individuals have gone out.

Cllr. Logan said it felt like WBC had abandoned the parish and wondered if residents could pick up litter and sweep mud from the road outside their properties. It was agreed this request be put in NewsLink.

The possibility of entering the Best Kept Village competition was suggested, but there was a desire for Stanford Dingley to remain a rural village and the two were thought to be mutually exclusive. Residents need to have a broader pride in the village.

12 Clerk's Report.

12.1 Finances.

To receive the financial statement dated 19th March 2024.

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

SC Contracting (Oxford) Ltd (Club Room electrical inspection)	£342.30
Triangle Management Company Ltd: Dog bin emptying Jan, Feb & March 2024	£84.24

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £7,149.20. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 29th February 2024 which showed a balance of £7,555.74. The Business Instant account contained a balance of £6,558.28 on the last statement dated the 29th February 2024, giving an overall total of £14,114.02. The sum of £2,409.16 is ring fenced for community resilience, prior to reclaiming any VAT.

12.2 Internal Audit.

Caroline Hyde, who has previously carried out the internal audit, is unable to complete the task for this year.

The Clerk is exploring other options.

12.3 Annual Parish Assembly – Tuesday 23rd April.

It was agreed that there would be no external speaker at the parish assembly. It was questioned whether parishioners have anything they wish to raise.

It was suggested that a cake baking competition is incorporated. The meeting could then be followed by wine and cake.

12.4 Date of next meeting (Annual meeting of council).

It was agreed that the annual meeting of SDPC will be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024.

12.5 Correspondence.

12.5.1 Triangle Management Company Ltd.

Triangle Management Company empty the bin on The Green and the dog bin by the Village Field. In FY23/24 they charged a total of £280.80 plus VAT to empty the bins. It was agreed the SDPC would instruct Triangle Management Company to continue emptying the bins during FY24/25 for £286, to be paid quarterly.

12.5.2 Free Framed Portrait of the King.

It was resolved that the Clerk order the free framed portrait of King Charles III to hang in the Club Room.

13 There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

14 Date of next meetings:

Annual Parish Assembly: Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

Annual Meeting of SDPC: Tuesday 21st May 2024.

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Signed:

Date: