

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Tuesday 30th July 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).

Six members of the public.

1 Public Session.

1.1 To receive an update on plans for Kingsmead.

The new owners of Kingsmead were in attendance at the meeting with their proposals to extend the property. These have been shared with the community over WhatsApp.

2 Apologies.

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Declaration of Interests.

3.1 Updates to the Register of Interests.

Cllr. Bucknell declared that her husband has jointly purchased the lease of The Old Boot.

3.2 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no other declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4 Approval of minutes of the Following Meetings of SDPC.

Minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 21st May and the extra ordinary meeting held on the 18th June 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

5 Planning.

5.1 To consider planning applications which WBC has consulted SDPC on:

5.1.1 24/01226/FUL – The Old Boot.

Retrospective: Erection of a tipi.

A member of the public commented that the photographs accompanying the application are of the old tipi, rather than the new one. She thought the new one was larger than the old one. A larger tipi would allow for more guests to the pub and in turn more cars, creating more of a parking issue than has previously been seen. Issues were raised about noise from amplified music on a summer afternoon.

The applicant commented that the new tipi is the same size as the old one. Whilst there have been cars parked on the road, the car park is not full. Some of the cars parked in the road belong to residents. Donnington Trust have offered the use of a field at Bradfield Farm to ease parking congestion, if it is needed. Various ways to encourage patrons to park in the carpark were discussed.

The applicant was not aware of the noise issue which had occurred with amplified music, but will address the situation and requested that if incidents occur again to please raise the issue.

SDPC has a policy to support the pubs in the parish.

5.1.2 24/01284/HOUSE – Rushdens Cottage, Bucklebury Road.

Single storey rear extension, following demolition of a plantroom. Clay tile hanging to frontage and side elevations to replace existing upvc cladding with new windows a new bay window and a new tiled roof front porch. Associated internal and external alterations.

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

5.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:

WBC has not made any decisions on any currently undetermined applications in Stanford Dingley.

5.3 Any other Planning matters.

It was reported that the “4 year rule” where if an extension or change of use has existed for 4 years a certificate of lawfulness can be claimed, has been changed, and from the 25th April 2024 the use must be proved for a period of at least 10 years.

Planning application 23/01276/FUL for The Bull (submitted by the previous Landlord) for a tented dining space, trailer bar and refrigerated storage trailer was refused. The new Landlord is planning to re-submit the application, but has been told that the horse box bar under a tree will be an issue, as will the refrigerated trailer because a noise complaint was received about it, even though it is mains powered and produces no noise.

6 District Councillor's Report.

District Cllr. Read commented that he had written an open letter to Olivia Bailey MP. Bucklebury PC has organised a meeting with Olivia on the 25th September, to which a representative of the other parishes within the Bucklebury Ward have been invited.

Amanda Buttermore has forwarded all of the correspondence with Thames Water relating to the sewer flooding in Stanford Dingley to Olivia.

The criteria under which potholes are filled has been revised so that potholes of 40mm deep will be filled, rather than having to wait until they are 50mm. People were encouraged to report potholes on line. If the whole surface of the road is in bad repair it should be reported for resurfacing. However, some councils are downgrading roads to byways.

The next round of Rural Business Grants will take place in September. In the last round grants of £160,000 were distributed.

WBC is working in partnership with other councils to find more foster homes. There are currently 11,000 children in care and less than 3,000 foster carers.

The Children's Summer Reading Challenge is now running at West Berkshire Libraries. Spending time in care is now treated as a protected characteristic within WBC.

The Public Examination of SP17 (within the Local Plan) has taken place. District Cllr. Read commented that he is very disappointed that WBC appointed a paid barrister and that the head of planning was only present for the last day of the inspection and then didn't take part.

7 The Club Room.

Cllr. Bucknell will source a mid-range induction hob and an electrician will be instructed to install it.

8 Projects.

8.1 Update on Claiming WBC Members bid for improvements to the Village Field.

The Clerk reported that to claim Members Bids, SDPC must submit an invoice for the bid amount to WBC, with copies of the invoices/receipts for the complete project. The Clerk will confirm with WBC whether volunteer labour can be included.

8.2 Update on the Church Parking Situation.

SDPC is not allowing parking on the Village Field on a regular basis. It is trying to identify and facilitate other parking in the Village which can be used by St. Denys and be more suitable.

9 Reports.

9.1 Events Committee.

This year, to date, the Events Committee has organised an Easter egg hunt, the village boundary walk, a beacon lighting on the 6th June and the 'Party in the Paddock' on the 8th June. Thanks were extended to all those who have helped.

The 'Party in the Paddock' was themed on the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings and people were encouraged to dress in clothes of the period (military or civilian). There was live music, food and games. In total, the event raised £2,130.69, with a profit of £1,485.69, including two public donations. A donation of £1,000 was made to the John Simmonds Trust. All who helped set up, run and tidy up after the event were thanked. Members of the Events Committee are now taking a well-earned rest before considering events for the autumn and the various Christmas parties.

It was noted that the Village Field is being used for dog training, but invoices are not being raised due to lack of information about the bookings. Cllr. Hanrahan will make some inquiries.

10 Clerk's report.

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10.1 Finances.

10.1.1 **Financial Statement dated 30/7/2024.**

The Clerk circulated a financial statement, dated the 30th July 2024 which reconciled to the balance to the bank statements. The bank statements showed a balance of £2,447.46 in the Treasurers Account and £6,586.82 in the Business Instant Account, both dated 28th June 2024. Once all payments and receipts have cleared, the balance in the Treasurers Account will be £2,170.89.

The financial statement includes unrepresented lodgements totalling £523.60 which includes £112 in rent for the Club Room and £411.60 for the WBC Member's bid for the village pump.

10.1.2 **Verification of Bank Statements.**

Cllr. Rudd verified that the financial statement matched the bank reconciliation and signed it.

10.1.3 **Authorisation of Payments.**

The following payments have been made since the last SDPC meeting:

SSE (1/2/24 – 31/3/24)	£63.43
Insurance	£561.34
Club Room door	£1,787.00
April Skies - Internal Audit	£200.00
Defibrillator Pads	£54.17
Salaries and HMRC	£728.00
Payroll services	£18.00

10.2 Correspondence.

The following correspondence has been received:

- SSEN Powering Communities Fund – grants up to £20,000 on community resilience or Low Carbon Technologies (LCT).
- WBC Winter Service consultation.
- New hospital programme for residents – survey.

11 **Round Table Comments.**

11.1 Mobile phone signal.

Since Vodafone has turned off the 3G phone signal, reception in the parish has essentially disappeared. Cllr. Bucknell has raised this internally. It was noted that O2 appears to give a much better signal.

11.2 Drainage on Back Lane.

Positive messages had been received from Jon Winstanley (WBC) about a culvert on Back Lane, however, nothing appears to have happened. District Cllr. Read will chase this up.

11.3 Bridge in the woods.

The bridge on footpath STAN 14/2 (opposite St. Denys, through the meadows and in the wood) is broken and has been reported to WBC.

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Meeting Closure.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Date of next SDPC meetings:

Ordinary meeting: Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.

Signed:

Date: