

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 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; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Six members of the public.

**1 Public Session.**

**1.1 Vodafone Signal.**

Vodafone have been made aware of issues with the signal in the Stanford Dingley area by a number of direct complaints. Cllr. Bucknell, forwarded copies of a number of complaints from parishioners and raised them internally. As a result, Vodafone became aware of the seriousness of the issue. They have scoured the parish and identified a potential location for a 30m high mast to resolve the issues.

A mast may give a better signal, but at what cost? The proposed site is very close to homes. There was strong opposition to a mast from parishioners and the majority of councillors. There was a strong view that a mast is not wanted in the parish, even if it would improve the signal.

It was requested that Cllr. Bucknell respond to Vodafone that many residents of Stanford Dingley are very strongly opposed to a mast in the parish. It was requested that this communication be copied to Cllr. Hanrahan, as Chairman of SDPC.

AB

**1.2 Notice of SDPC meetings.**

Whilst the agenda for this meeting was posted on the website, some members of the public were unaware of the meeting until the afternoon preceding the meeting. It was agreed that a list of meeting dates would be posted on the noticeboards and a link to the agenda will be circulated to parishioners who have subscribed to the parishioner email distribution list.

HP

**2 Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr. Read.

**3 Declaration of Interests.**

**3.1 Updates to the Register of Interests.**

The Clerk will resend a Register of Interests form to Cllr. Bucknell.

HP

**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 SDPC held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 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 24/01554/HOUSE – Kingsmead, Southend.**

*Two storey side extension with internal alterations to create additional master bedroom.*  
SDPC had **no objection** to this application.

**5.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:**

**5.2.1 24/00910/HOUSE – Willow Cottage.**

*Replace existing old conservatory with new tile and glazed single storey extension.*  
SDPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

**5.2.2 24/01135/HOUSE – Kingsmead, Southend.**

*Retrospective application for replacement garage ancillary building.*  
SDPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

**6 District Councillor's Report.**

District Cllr. Read submitted a written report prior to the meeting. The main points were:

- A local ward survey has revealed that the majority of residents are satisfied with the waste service received, but consider highway, verge and gully services to be poor.
- WBC will be launching a public consultation on its new draft Waste Management Strategy. The aim is to reduce general waste and increase recycling.
- The WBC Scrutiny Commission (of which District Cllr. Read is a member) had a meeting focusing on Thames Water and the Environment Agency. This aimed to assess how Thames Water's investment in water supply and sewage networks were supporting planned development in West Berkshire. Action of River Kennet and local flood forums participated in these meetings. In October, there is a scheduled meeting with Thames Water and the Environment Agency.
- The Annual Public Health Report has been published which shows higher than average childhood vaccinations, new sexually transmitted infections are significantly lower, levels of overweight and obese children are lower and levels of adults admitted to hospital following falls or reporting long term musculoskeletal problems are lower than average.
- The Planning Inspector has found a shortfall of homes in the Local Plan, resulting in the following new sites being submitted: land near Henwick Park (225) and land to the east of the Regency Park Hotel (45), both on Bowling Green Road in Thatcham, Pincents Lane in Calcot (138) and north of Pangbourne Hill (25). In addition, he has found that the North East Thatcham site has capacity beyond the 1,500 homes and suggests that it be increased to 2.500.

7 **The Club Room.**

It was agreed to wait until the Black Friday sales to purchase a mid-range hob for the Club Room. Cllr. Bucknell will purchase the hob and then find an electrician to fit it. Cllr. Fullerton produced a cleaning rota, but it has fallen by the wayside. He will start a new one.

A crack in a roof tile has resulted in a wasp nest which needed treatment. Cllr. Rudd will replace the cracked tile.

AB  
HF  
TR

8 **Projects.**

8.1 **Village Field.**

All of the trees planted earlier in the year are looking well and being watered when necessary. They need to be tidied up for the Winter.

It was agreed that the Village Field is not suitable for church parking.

8.2 **Update on the Generator.**

The generator is now fully operational. A training guide will be produced by a parishioner. Once this is in place, a training session will be organised for those who will be operating it. A risk assessment needs to be carried out for use of the generator.

It was agreed to spend approximately £150 on fuel for it.

The Clerk will ensure that the PC insurance covers the generator.

HP

8.3 **Emergency Plan and Updates.**

Cllr. Hanrahan will review the Emergency Plan and update it where necessary to include use of the generator.

EH

8.4 **Projects requiring budget for FY25/26.**

Two projects were suggested: replacement of the bench around the tree on the Village Green, and work on the Club Room including the guttering, the kitchen window and the rear door.

8.5 **Flooding.**

Independently of SDPC, parishioners have clubbed together and purchased a pump to assist with flooding in the community.

Cllr. Hanrahan is getting updates from Thames Water (TW) approximately every three weeks. Funding for the next piece of works has been obtained, but the work being done

has not been detailed. Two infiltration tests have been carried out, but they were both done in dry weather and have therefore given inconclusive results. When the alarm went off at the pumping station, a new team of people were sent out, unaware of the history. Questions have been submitted, via District Cllr. Read, to the WBC scrutiny committee meeting, at which TW and the Environment Agency will be present and answering questions.

Cllr. Logan reported that he is not paying the waste component of his water bill on the basis that TW should do their job with skill and care. He has consulted the Consumer Council for Water.

## **9 Reports.**

### **9.1 Events Committee.**

It was agreed to try fortnightly pub nights, alternating between The Bull and The Old Boot. Cllr. Rudd will publicise them on WhatsApp.

The Events Committee made a donation of £1,000 to the John Symonds Trust with some of the proceeds from the Party in the Paddock.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October, the annual Cabbage Walking Stick competition will take place. Christmas parties are being organised by the Events Committee.

The Old Boot is organising a Halloween party (independently of the Events Committee).

### **9.2 Dredge Gang.**

The Dredge Gang will be carrying out a litter pick along Back Lane and carrying out drain clearance work.

It was requested that outings of the Dredge Gang be advertised on the “ladies” WhatsApp group.

## **10 Clerk’s report.**

### **10.1 Finances.**

#### **10.1.1 Financial Statement dated 24/9/2024.**

The Clerk reported a balance of £482.23 in the Treasurers account once all cheques and lodgements have cleared. The second half of the precept will be paid by WBC shortly. This was reconciled to the last bank statements dated the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 when the Treasurers account had a balance of £2,173.89 and the Business Instant account a balance of £6,600.14.

#### **10.1.2 Authorisation of Payments.**

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

T. G. Pest Control	£65.00	Treatment of wasp nest.
Post Office Ltd	£24.40	SSE (1/7/24 – 31/7/24).
Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£85.79	Litter bin emptying.
Club Room expenses	£123.93	Window cleaning,
Generator installation	£1,182.84	Funded from the Community Resilience grant
Hoses & connectors	£94.08	Watering the newly planted trees on the Village
Ballast	£150.12	For path to generator.

#### **10.1.3 To review expenditure against budget to the 30/9/2024.**

The Clerk circulated a report on expenditure against budget for the first half of the financial year, showing an expenditure of £8,730.34 plus VAT of £1,214.43. This expenditure includes £1,110.80 for installation of the generator which has been funded from the Community Resilience Grant obtained in FY22/23. A total of £2,775.98 has been spent on the Village field project, some of which will be funded from a WBC Members bid.

## **10.2 Correspondence.**

### **10.2.1 April Skies Accounting.**

It was resolved to appoint April Skies Accounting as the internal auditor for FY24/at a cost of £250. This will include an interim audit.

10.2.2 WBC District Parish Conference – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

11 **Round Table Comments.**

11.1 Pubs.

It was noted that both of the village pubs appear to be struggling in terms of the number of customers frequenting them. Cllr. Rudd will continue with his work on getting them both registered as Assets of Community Value.

**Meeting Closure.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**Date of next SDPC meetings:**

**Ordinary meeting: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.**

Signed:

Date: