

**Minutes of the Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 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).  
Three members of the public.

- 1 Public Session.**
- 1.1 Grit Bins.**  
It was reported that the grit bin at Casey Court is empty.  
It was agreed that more grit needs to be purchased. The Clerk was reminded about the need for a grit bin at the junction of Back Lane and Cock Lane.
- 1.2 Flooding.**  
WBC has cleared and reinstated the gulleys on Cock Lane. This has not been done on the road from Chapel Row to Stanford Dingley. The gully at Roman Way needs to be cleared; surface water on the road currently goes into the GPO manhole rather than the gully.  
Water has been seen coming out of the sewer manhole in front of The Boot.  
Mud and leaves need to be continually cleared from gulleys in order for them to work effectively.  
In recent years, sewer flooding has been the major issue, however it is believed that there is the potential for river flooding too. The sewer flooding has only impacted four homes. River flooding could potentially be alleviated by holding water back behind the Village Green; Cllr. Hanrahan and the flood warden will survey whether construction of a low brick wall might be useful.  
The efficiency of the bridge was questioned. In the past, the sand bar immediately above the bridge has been dredged out of the river and this may need doing again.  
A parishioner was thanked for all he had done to keep the gulleys clear and for monitoring the flooding situation during the recent wet weather.  
The 'floodsax' purchased some years ago have all been used and it might be prudent to purchase more.
- 2 Apologies.**  
Apologies for 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 other declarations of interest in any agenda items.
- 4 Approval of minutes of the SDPC held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**  
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 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:**  
No consultations have been received from WBC on planning applications since the last meeting.
- 5.2 Planning Decisions made by WBC:**
- 5.2.1 24/01554/HOUSE – Kingsmead.**  
*Two storey side extension with internal alterations to create additional master bedroom.*  
SDPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.
- 5.2.2 24/01284/HOUSE – Rushdens Cottage, Bucklebury Road.**  
*Single storey rear extension, following demolition of a small 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.

SDPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

**5.2.3 24/01226/FUL – The Old Boot Inn.**

*Retrospective: Erection of a tipi.*

SDPC **supported** this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

**6 District Councillor’s Report.**

At the next full council meeting of WBC on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, the proposed modifications to the proposed Local Plan including the NE Thatcham development will be discussed.

Following the departure of Nigel Lynn as CEO of WBC, Joseph Holmes has been appointed as the interim CEO. Recruitment for a permanent CEO will begin in 2025.

Free bus travel for journeys starting or finishing in West Berkshire is available on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December.

WBC and Greenham Trust have collaborated to launch the “Let’s Get Mindful” funding scheme with a total of £90,000 ringfenced for grant applications for projects that support people with mental health challenges.

The Household Support Fund will continue to run until Spring 2025, helping households meet essential costs including energy, water bills and food. Funding of £695,000 has been received from central Government for distribution between October 2024 and the end of March 2025.

The West Berkshire Giving Tree campaign, supporting victims of domestic abuse and their families over Christmas is now open for donations.

**7 The Club Room.**

Cllr. Bucknell will purchase a replacement hob for the Club Room and organise its installation.

Cllr. Fullerton will reestablish a cleaning rota.

Cllr. Bucknell will ask if anyone is willing to take on the role of bookings secretary.

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**8 Projects.**

**8.1 Village Field.**

The Clerk reported that the Members Bid claim form for the work on the Village Field has been submitted to WBC. The claim, is slightly different to the original application, and includes the fencing of the western boundary which was funded by a DEFRA grant. The DEFRA grant funding is being used to make up 30% of the project cost. Whilst the fencing was mentioned in the original application, the funding was not included in the application.

**8.2 Update on the Generator.**

Instructions for the generator have been written and tested. Copies now need to be printed and laminated, and copies placed in the Club Room and under the hood of the generator.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the generator would be started when there is a crisis situation and when there is a planned power outage, when it may also be possible to use the Club Room.

**9 Reports.**

**9.1 WBC Scrutiny Meeting with TW and the EA.**

Cllr. Hanrahan attended the WBC Scrutiny meeting at which TW and the EA were present. TW had prepared answers to the questions posed and claimed that Stanford Dingley was in a unique situation and that they had been in constant communications with parishioners. There was no mention of the number of cases raised about issues in Stanford Dingley which are closed without action, or the fact that the last face to face meeting was in 2022.

It was questioned whether the Scrutiny Committee is holding TW or the EA to account.

**9.2** Cllr. Logan's meeting with Olivia Bailey MP.

Cllr. Logan and Cllr. Rudd attended a meeting with Olivia Bailey MP in Pangbourne. She has written to TW on behalf of Stanford Dingley residents and requested that someone who understands the Stanford Dingley pipework communicates with residents and that a tanker is permanently on standby to empty the storm tank. She received the same messages as were delivered at the WBC Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr. Logan commented that he has now made a complaint to the Consumer Council for Water (CCW) about the situation. However, whilst the issues are being pursued, it has transpired that the CCW does not have any power over TW.

**9.3** Events Committee.

The Stanford Dingley and Tutts Clump Christmas Party will take place at The Bull on 7th December. A children's party is planned for the 8th December in the Club Room, but has received little interest from Village children and may be cancelled.

A Village Walk is being organised between Christmas and New Year.

Carol singing on the 19th December was cancelled as The Boot had booked The Pangbourne Silver Band for the same evening.

Fortnightly pub nights are not working awfully well and it was agreed that they will revert to being monthly.

**10** Clerk's report.

**10.1** Finances.

**10.1.1** **Financial Statement dated 26/11/2024.**

The Clerk reported a balance of £3,447,93 in the Treasurer's account once all cheques and lodgements have cleared. This was reconciled to the last bank statements dated the 31st October 2024 when the Treasurers account had a balance of £3,590.52 and the Business Instant account a balance of £6,611.18.

The second half of the precept has been received from WBC. Bookings for the Village Field and the Club Room have resulted in income of £42.50 since the last meeting.

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

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

Post Office Ltd £13.51 SSE (1/7/24 – 1/9/2024).

Triangle Management Co. Ltd £85.79 Litter bin emptying.

**10.1.3** **To review expenditure against budget to the 26/11/2024.**

In reviewing the budget, it was agreed to make payments of £100 to the Pang Valley Flood Forum, £50 to NewsLink, £100 to West Berks CAB and £100 to WBC for library provision.

It was decided not to renew membership of the Community Building Advisory Service run by CCB.

**10.1.4** **Draft Budget for FY25/26.**

The Clerk circulated a draft budget prior to the meeting showing an expenditure of £7577.76. Various comments were made which will be incorporated, before being circulated and agreed at the January SDPC meeting.

**10.2** Dates for SDPC in 2025.

The following dates were agreed for SDPC meetings in 2025:

Tuesday 28th January

Tuesday 25th March

Tuesday 20th May

Tuesday 29th July

Tuesday 30th September

Tuesday 25th November

These dates will be advertised on the noticeboards.

**10.3** Correspondence.

Details of the following consultations have been received:

HP

- WBC budget proposals,
- WBC's service offering to Parish Councils,
- Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting.

**Meeting Closure.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

**Date of next SDPC meetings:**

**Ordinary meeting: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Club Room.**

Signed:

Date: